THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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IN SECOND BIG CULLING IN 3 MONTHS, DEFENCE MINISTER SHANGFU SACKED

Gen Li Shangfu has not been in public view for the past two months. Foreign minister Qin Gang was the first to be chucked by President Xi Jinping

MORE CHOPPING AND CHANGING IN MINISTRY

Li, who became defence minister during a cabinet reshuffle in March, hasn't been seen since August 29. Xi also removed finance minister Liu Kun and appointed Lan Foan in his place. Lan was expected to take the job after he became the communist party chief of the finance ministry in late September. Besides, minister of science & tech Wang Zhigang was sacked

CHINA PURGES ITS PLA ROCKET FORCE

- While Li was removed from two posts — State Councillor and defence minister, Qin was removed from the position of State Councillor. After sacking Qin, predecessor Wang Yi was reassigned the foreign ministry
- Li's sacking followed a PLA Rocket Force purge as its commander Li Yuchao and political commissar Xu Zhongbo were both replaced | P7

2
MONTHS OF NO-SHOW BY LI SHANGFU BEFORE HE GOT MARCHING ORDERS

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

A cart carries Palestinians to an UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees) building used as a shelter, in Rafah on Tuesday | AFP

Israeli army not ready for ground assault yet: US

Claims it doesn't have achievable military goals. Can't justify terror at Israel or Mumbai: Blinken

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

EVEN as Israel has delayed its plan to roll tanks into Gaza, its airstrikes on potential Hamas targets in Gaza have continued unabated. Hamas-controlled health ministry officials in Gaza claimed that several hundred people were killed in the past 24 hours.

While the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) is finalising its military strategy for the ground offensive, the US thinks the IDF lacks 'achievable military goals' for Gaza, the *Times of Israel* reported. Israel is considering two options: a major ground offensive or a combo operation of surgical strikes-cum-targeted raids by special forces.

According to a *New York Times* report, US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin has been holding daily deliberations with his Israeli counterpart Yoav Gallant. The US has advised Israel against rushing its ground forces to Gaza, which will take a heavy toll on both sides. Fighting Hamas terrorists, who operate from underground tunnels and densely populated areas, will be risky and the strategy needs to be thought-through, Austin reportedly told Gallant, while adding the ground offensive will be a long-drawn battle.

Addressing the UN Security Council ministerial meeting on the situation in West Asia on Tuesday, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken drew a parallel between terrorist attacks by Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Toiba in Mumbai and by Hamas in Israel. "All acts of terrorism are unlawful and unjustifiable... whether they target people in Nairobi or Bali, Istanbul or Mumbai, New York or Kibbutz Be'eri," he said.

Meanwhile, the situation in Gaza continues to be grim. The World Health Organization said on Tuesday that 46 out of its 72 health care facilities have ceased to function. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees has also warned that it is on the verge of ending operations in the Gaza Strip.

Israel has allowed a few aid trucks to enter Gaza, but it is yet to permit fuel.

In a positive development, Hamas released two more hostages — two elderly Israeli women named Yocheved Lifshitz and Nurit Cooper — on Monday night.

After her release, 85-year-old Yocheved told reporters that she was beaten while being taken away on a bike, and was forced to walk several kilometres on wet ground to reach a network of tunnels that looked like a spider web. P9

No licence to kill: Qatar

Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, the emir of Qatar, which negotiates with Hamas for the safety of hostages, on Tuesday said Israel can't have an unconditional licence to kill civilians in Gaza

Tourist visa off for Indian arrivals in Lanka

YESHI SELI @New Delhi

SRI Lanka on Tuesday sought to turbocharge its tourist footfalls by making arrivals from seven countries, including India, visa-free. It is a pilot scheme that kicked in with immediate effect and will continue till March 31, 2024. Indians constitute 21% of total tourist arrivals in Sri Lanka.

Currently, many Asian destinations are competing to raise their tourism market, which fell after Covid pandemic. With the objective of reaching 5 million tourists, the Sri Lanka Cabinet decided to waive tourist visa fee for nationals arriving from India, Russia, Thailand, China, Indonesia, Malaysia and Japan.

It means tourists from these countries will get visas when visiting Lanka without a fee.

The announcement appeared timed with the Indian festival season that has already begun. Sri Lanka hopes to rebuild its wrecked economy partially with enhanced tourist inflow, which has the potential to galvanise the allied sectors even without the visa fee revenue.

"Sri Lanka is fully open and reaching out for tourists. India is our priority market and we are targeting three types of tourists – family, entertainment and Ramayana. We are also working out special deals for Indian tourists and are in the process of tying up with low-cost carriers," Sri Lankan Convention Bureau (SLCB) chairman Thisum Jayasurya had said earlier. SLCB had led a delegation to India last year in November for road shows to promote tourism.

The SLCB delegation, led by Jayasurya, held road shows in Delhi, Mumbai and Hyderabad. "India has always stood strong with Sri Lanka with their boundless love to visit and explore our island. Wonders of our paradise are ready for Indians," Jayasurya had said.

The initial proposal was to issue free tourist visas to arrivals from five countries — India, China, Russia, Thailand and Indonesia.

EXPRESS READ

DKS wants Kanakapura to be part of Bengaluru

Bengaluru: DyCM DK Shivakumar wants his Kanakapura assembly constituency in Ramanagara district to be part of Bengaluru urban district. Shivakumar told people of Kanakapura on Tuesday not to sell their land now as property prices will go up once his constituency is included in Bengaluru urban district | P4

Court grants Sharif bail in three corruption cases

Lahore: Pakistan's Punjab provincial government on Tuesday suspended Nawaz Sharif's seven-year sentence in the Al-Azizia case while two separate courts confirmed his bail in three different corruption cases, in a relief to the former premier after his return from London following four years of self-exile | P9

NADA HABBA ENDS ON A GRAND NOTE

CM Siddaramaiah, scion of erstwhile Mysuru royal family Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar, DyCM DK Shivakumar and others offer puja before the start of Jamboo Savari in Mysuru on Tuesday | UDAYASHANKAR S

Bhagwat takes a swipe at woke elements

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @Mumbai

RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on Tuesday advised people to cast their vote carefully in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections keeping in mind vital issues like the unity and integrity of the country.

Addressing the annual Dusshera rally of the RSS in Nagpur, Bhagwat took a swipe at influential cultural Marxists and woke elements, alleging they are using their influence in the media and academia to spoil the country's education and culture.

"These forces are opposed to all orderliness and morality, beneficence, culture, dignity and restraint in the world. In order for a handful of people to have complete control over the entire human race, they reward, promote and spread anarchy and indiscretion. Their modus involves taking control of the media and academia, and plunging education, culture, politics and social environment into confusion, chaos, and corruption," he said.

Turning to the Manipur conflict, he wondered how hatred erupted in a place that was peaceful for almost a decade. "Which foreign powers may be interested in taking advantage of such unrest and instability in Manipur?" he asked.

Policy won't be revisited despite Agniveer's death in Siachen

MAYANK SINGH @New Delhi

THE death of two Agniveers has reignited the debate on the welfare measures for soldiers serving the Indian Army under the Agniveer scheme. Sources, however, said that the policy won't be revisited. "The policy regarding the induction and the associated benefits concerning the youth serving under the scheme was fixed by the government in June last year and there is no ongoing discussion to bring any changes in them," sources said.

Agniveer (Operator) Gawate Akshay Laxman died in the line of duty in Siachen on October 22. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in a post on X said Laxman's family will receive no gratuity, pension or other benefits, adding the Agniveer scheme is an insult to jawans.

On October 11, the Army had faced criticism after Agniveer Amritpal Singh, 19, who died in Jammu, was not accorded a military funeral. The Army later clarified that it was because he died of a self-inflicting wound. Officials said no guard of honour is provided when the death is by suicide.

Regarding Agniveer Laxman, sources in the defence establishment said he will get all the emoluments as per the terms of engagement of Agniveers in the case of demise as a battle casualty. "Accordingly, the next of kin of a deceased battle casualty Agniveer will receive ₹48 lakh non-contributory insurance and ex-gratia of ₹44 lakh," sources said.

Besides, Seva Nidhi contributed by the Agniveer, with equal matching contribution by the government plus interest, will be paid to the family. The next of kin will receive pay for the balance tenure from the date of death, till completion of four years. There would be a contribution from the Armed Forces Battle Casualty Fund as well, sources added.

NIA: IS operative applied for HAL's course to intrude into defence system

YATHIRAJU @Bengaluru

IN a startling revelation, the NIA stated before the Special Court in Bengaluru that the social media accounts and documents collected from HAL revealed that Maaz Muneer Ahmed, an accused in the conspiracy hatched to further the activities of Islamic State (IS), had applied for admission to PG Diploma in Aviation Management (PGDM) at the HAL Management Academy, Bengaluru, as per the direction of his online handler 'Colonel' to intrude into the defence system of India through HAL.

The data collected and analysed by NIA also revealed that Maaz joined the '7 Robotics Online Project-Based Course' at SKYFI Labs and received a Robotics kit. The other accused, Syed Yasin, joined the 'Mobile Robotic Online Course' and received a kit to learn robotics as directed by the 'Colonel'. The revelations were made by the NIA in a statement of objections filed to the bail petitions of Huzair Farhan Baig, 22, who was working as a food delivery boy and Rapido rider from Bengaluru, and Mazin Abdul Rahaman, 22, an engineering graduate from Dakshina Kannada. P4

Conductors issuing inflated tickets for more incentives

AKNISREE KARTHIK @Bengaluru

TO get more incentives, some BMTC conductors under the Shakti scheme are issuing 'zero tickets' to destinations that are ahead of the stops women passengers intend to get down.

For instance, a woman passenger from Majestic to Shivajinagar is issued a ticket to a stop that is ahead of Shivajinagar. This is done because the ticket fare is high and the incentive earned is also high. Bus conductors and drivers together earn an incentive of 3% of the money collected for the tickets issued in a day.

"I board a bus daily from CPRI Main Gate to Balekundri Circle. The ticket is issued for Shivajinagar. The cost to Balekundri Circle is ₹15 while it is ₹20 for Shivajinagar," said Asha, an employee of a private company.

CONTINUED ON: P2

RAJNATH IN TAWANG TO CELEBRATE PUJA

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh performed 'Shastra Puja' in Arunachal Pradesh's Tawang and celebrated Dussehra with soldiers in the region close to China | P7

OBITUARY

Our great game has lost its conscience keeper

CRICKET'S conscience keeper is no more. In one sentence, that's how I will sum up the passing away of Bishan Singh Bedi, my mentor, friend, philosopher and guide. It is an irreparable loss to the cricketing fraternity. The magic has indeed left the building for I personally believe you will never see a player of Bedi's calibre again.

I have so many memories of playing with 'Bishu' as he was known. I learnt a lot from him and strived to incorporate it into my game. In my opinion, he was not only the best spinner in the world but also a great personality. What also set him apart was he was an outstanding thinker of the game. Spending one evening with him was all you needed to get an insight into how he thought about our great game.

I was extra lucky because he was my captain in my debut series against New Zealand in 1976. He did everything in his power to make me feel welcome and was a great motivator of his wards. Lastly, I will be doing a disservice if I don't talk about Bedi's fearlessness. He was utterly and totally fearless. You could almost call him cricket's moral compass for he always knew what was right and what was wrong. He was a very straightforward person and would always call spade a spade. The light will surely be dimmed for his passing is a heavy loss to the fraternity. We have lost an immense man and I send my heartfelt condolences to his bereaved family.

You cannot have another Bedi. Go well.

(As told to Ashok Venugopal)

(Syed Kirmani was a former India wicketkeeper and chairman of the national selection committee. He was part of the 1983 India team that won the World Cup for the first time)

BISHAN SINGH BEDI
SEPT 25, 1946 – OCT 23, 2023

Congress govt in state now wants to rename Vijayapura after Basaveshwara

FIROZ ROZINDAR @ Vijayapura

THE Congress government, which renamed Bijapur as Vijayapura in 2014, is apparently in a mood to rename the district again.

Now, the government wants to rename Vijayapura after Basaveshwara, the 12th century social reformer. Basaveshwara was born in Basavanabagewadi taluk of Vijayapura district.

Deputy Commissioner T Bhooblan told TNIE that the government has issued a notification in this regard. The notification reads that the government proposes to rename the district after Basaveshwara,

who strove for equality and social justice.

Considering Basaveshwara's contributions, the government wants to rename the district as 'Basaveshwara district' or 'Basava district'. In this regard, the government has sought the opinion of elected representatives, eminent personalities, NGOs and the general public. The government has appealed to the people to share their views within 15 days.

Meanwhile, several leaders, including some from Congress and the Dalit community, and historians said that they will not support the idea of renaming the district again. Calling it unnecessary, they said the government should give priority to the development of the district instead of renaming it.

Opposing the move, Krishna Kolhar Kulkarni, historian, writer and recipient of Rajyotsava Award, said, "There is no need to rename the district again...." P4

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU

02 BENGALURU WEDNESDAY 25.10.2023

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ALMANAC TODAY

- **Wednesday:** 25/10/2023
- **Year:** Shobhakruta
- **Ayana:** Dakshinayana
- **Ritu:** Sharad
- **Masa:** Ashwayuja
- **Paksha:** Shukla
- **Tithi:** Ekadasi1 10.11 am
- **Nakshatra:** Sathabhisha 12.15 pm
- **Moon in** Meena Rashi
- **Rahukaala:** 12:00 pm to 01:30pm
- **Gulikakala:** 10:30 am to 12:00 pm
- **Yamaganda:** 07:30 am to 09:00 am

WEATHER

MIN 17°C | MAX 31°C

FORECAST Scattered clouds

Sunrise	6.11 am
Sunset	5.56 pm
Moonrise	2.38 am
Moonset	3.25 pm

40 ILLEGAL BUILDINGS FOUND AT ONE LAYOUT IN WHITEFIELD

Palike issues notices, says action against them likely in 102 days as per rules

MOHAMMED YACOOB @Bengaluru

IN a drive against rampant unauthorized constructions in Whitefield, the Joint Director of Town Planning (JDTP) and Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) engineers have identified 40 illegal buildings in a single layout in Whitefield and have issued notices to 27 buildings. The Palike will be issuing notices to the remaining 13 buildings soon, while demolition is likely to take place in 102 days as per rules.

According to citizen activist Sandeep Anirudhan, "These buildings at Whiterose Layout are constructed by out-of-state residents and their aim is only making profits. The buildings will either lack necessary permissions from civic bodies or there will be deviations. Many buildings, which are supposed to be ground-plus-two floors, have at least six floors. The growing illegal 'paying guest' accommodation business is going unchecked."

He further added that there are no proper roads, no drains, no underground connections and there are no water supply lines. The authorities should also file criminal cases against such owners and builders to ensure that such blatant building bye-law violations are not repeated in other areas.

"There is raw sewage flowing on the roads, creating health risks for all neighbouring areas. Roads barely exist, there are no water connections, no sewage connections, and buildings are letting out raw sewage onto the roads, which is accumulating in open ponds and creating health hazards and contaminating groundwater," stated Anirudhan.

Following the complaint from residents and activists, Joint Commissioner of Mahadevapura Zone Dr Dakshayini K directed officials to follow the newly issued High Court order, serving notices and logically following through the process to take up demolition.

"I have instructed the JDTP and BBMP Marshals to take steps and ensure that ongoing illegal constructions are stopped. The greed of some owners from Marathahalli and surrounding areas and builders lobbying from out of state for more rental money are resulting in building bye-law violations. Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar also has given clear instruction and asked us to follow the High Court's direction in identifying and removing such buildings," the officer said.

> **The buildings will either lack necessary permissions from civic bodies or there will be deviations** — Sandeep Anirudhan, citizen activist

UNTIL NEXT YEAR

Top: People watch a procession of idols of Goddess Durga being taken for immersion in Ulsoor Lake, on Vijayadashami Day, in Bengaluru on Tuesday. Right: Rays of the rising sun pass through the gates of Sri Subramanyaswamy Temple in Sajjan Rao Circle as devotees gather on the last day of Dasara; Women from Bengali community smear vermilion on each other and dance as they celebrate Durga Puja in Bengaluru | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA, NAGARAJA GADEKAL

'Stern action against errant conductors'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

SOME women passengers said they too were given tickets to destinations that were much ahead of their stops. "I was travelling from Majestic to Sirsi Circle and I was given a ticket to Nayandahalli, which is three stops ahead of my stop," said Shanti, a commuter.

They said many do not question the conductors for issuing tickets to far away destinations as they are not paying for the same after the implementation of the Shakti scheme.

A BMTC conductor, who admitted to this, said, "One reason for this is to earn more incentives. But they also do it when they fall short of the regular fare collection on their routes as they do not want to come under the radar of the depot manager. For instance, if their route fetches Rs 5,000 and they have collected only Rs 3,500, then they will resort to issuing tickets to far away destinations to make up for the shortfall." Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy said some conductors do it for more incentives. He referred to a viral video where a conductor is seen printing tickets just to inflate the total amount collected. Though the government reimburses the ticket cost to the bus corporations, conductors must issue tickets to the places as demanded by women passengers. BMTC officials will step up inspection. Stern action will be taken against errant conductors, he added.

MUDPIPE CAFE FIRE: PALIKE SHUTS 48 SHOPS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @BENGALURU

Closed: 48 establishments
Notices issued to: 353
The highest violation in East Zone: 107 notices were issued and 13 shops were closed, followed by **South Zone** with 59 notices and 8 shops were shut

Following the fire incident at Mudpipe Cafe, 48 shops have been closed so far in the city, while notices have been issued to 353 cafes, pubs, bars, restaurants, and hotels. It must be noted that East and Mahadevapura Zone top the list for non-compliance of licensing regulations, among other lapses.

According to Dr Balasundar AS, Chief Health Officer, BBMP Health Department, the department has been inspecting the Palike's eight zones since Friday. At restaurants, hotels, and cafes, the authorities are checking whether licensing regulations are being followed, while keeping a watch for other lapses. Action is being initiated accordingly.

"The BBMP has so far inspected over 600 establishments and shut 48 till Monday, as such shops are not complying with licensing regulations and have other lapses. This apart, show cause notices have been issued to 353 shops, who have also been told to get legal documents at the earliest or face closure," said a senior BBMP official.

The Palike is on a special drive following the fire tragedy at Mudpipe Cafe on October 18, in which a cook was seriously injured, after he jumped off the fourth floor of a building where the cafe is located, due to a commercial LPG cylinder blast.

NEED OF THE HOUR

16 years later, Karnataka still waiting for Doppler weather radar

S LALITHA @Bengaluru

SIXTEEN years after it was first proposed, Karnataka's hope to have its own Doppler Weather Radar that could predict weather conditions accurately continues. It is the only state in South India that does not possess this crucial forecasting system. An India Meteorological Department official said the process of procuring and housing two such radars was on and it could materialise by early 2024.

Farmers as well as tourists will be among those who benefit enormously when it is in place, says private weather forecaster Adarsh Gowda, who has repeatedly stressed on the urgency for it. He has even reached out to the Prime Minister through his social media posts. "At present, Karnataka's weather predictions are all made using radars from the neighbouring states. Due to the distance factor, the radar images have a 500-km resolution and hence the prediction is simply not accurate. Ideally, the radar needs to be within a 150-km distance," Gowda told *TNIE*.

To assess weather conditions in Bengaluru, Kolar, Ramanagara, and Chikkaballapur, Karnataka uses Chennai's Doppler radar, for North Karnataka, the one in Goa is used, while for Interior Karnataka and Malnad, Kerala's radar is used, Gowda points out.

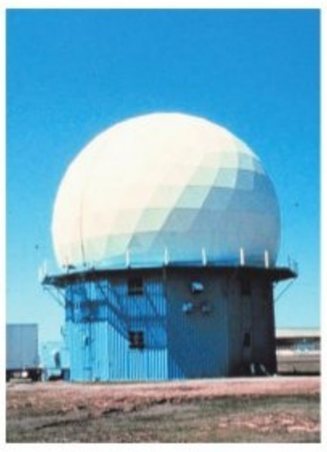


PHOTO FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY

"This facility is critical in a large state like ours. Coastal areas receive very heavy rain during monsoon and Malnad is one of the wettest regions. We also need one to predict uncertain weather in Bengaluru. A much smaller state like Kerala has two, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Tamil Nadu have three each, while Telangana has one," he added.

Sharing the history of the lack of progress, the forecaster said it was first proposed that the site for the radar would be in Devanahalli, in 2007. "The location was then shifted to Yelahanka GKVK Campus in 2017 and then to Hessaraghatta in 2019. It has been 16 years since it was first proposed and we are still at the starting point," he lamented.

Meanwhile, a senior IMD official said, "The procurement order for two radars (one for Bengaluru and another for Mangaluru) has already been placed by the Upper Air Instrumentation Division of our head office in Delhi. We have been asked to identify sites for them."

"We have assessed five sites and have narrowed down on one and it is confidential for now. It was tough to find the ideal site in Bengaluru due to the high-rise buildings here. The sites should not have any obstructions all around (360 degrees) so that the scanner can function perfectly," he added.

> **This facility is critical in a large state like ours. Coastal areas receive very heavy rain during monsoon and Malnad is one of the wettest regions** — Adarsh Gowda, private weather forecaster

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

25th October: There are two nebulous Neptunian patterns at the moment, one to Mercury, ruler of bright ideas and another to Mars, symbol of energy. In my opinion it's an ideal moment to bring a little imagination to all activities - and everyone should be willing to put their best dreams into effect.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
Today's stars continue yesterday's most important trends, including a tendency to bury your head in the sand. I doubt if you'll succeed, though! Your advantage is that in any situation you can look beyond the immediate consequences towards the next stage.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
The professional situation is still quite clear, and this is an excellent moment for all ambitious types to both aim for promotion and to encourage very close relatives to do the same. Social prospects veer towards the unusual, by the way, so you should be prepared for a few surprises over the coming days.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
You should try to discover why colleagues or associates want to opt out of agreements and commitments. It may be that they instinctively know better than you what the real situation is. A financial question should be answered by the end of the week.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
You really should devote a little more attention to sorting out relationships at work. Ideally, you should be operating as part of a team, co-operating with colleagues almost as if they're part of your family. Hopefully you won't argue like you have done with nearest and dearest!

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
Partners seem to hold the advantage, but that shouldn't be any bar to you enjoying yourself. In fact, the best fun you can have is by following other people's lead and joining in with whatever they suggest. You might actually find that you enjoy something that you'd always avoided.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
Do listen carefully to what partners are saying, and if you're at all telepathic, try and work out what they're thinking as well! On the other hand, before you act on what you hear, you'd better make sure you're correct! Keep an eye open for the occasional disagreement later on, when people around you get tired and touchy.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
Several factors seem to be making it easier for you to make up your mind. One could be increased support from family members. It's probably most useful to ask for moral support, rather than practical assistance. That way, you preserve the freedom to act as you wish.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
Cost seems to be the major factor, and romantic plans may be inhibited by what you can and can't afford. This could be a good time to take a gamble, in which case emotional risks are as likely as financial. Remember that old saying - "never fight a battle you can't win"!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
The financial situation should now have eased, but only temporarily. Use all and any new-found confidence to get yourself on a new and much more profitable path. What's more, you may put your foot down at home. On the other hand, there's no guarantee that partners will obey!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
You may keep all significant secrets to yourself for a little while longer, but you should have your story ready just in case someone else spills the beans. Your romantic hopes might just involve you in additional cost, so you should be prepared to shell out.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
There have been delays, but no matter what area of your life has temporarily stalled, you can bring in other people to help out. With the right tone of voice, you can even get them to do your dirty work for you, which is no mean feat! You might have to return the favour, later.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
This is the time to press ahead with supreme confidence. The very last thing you should do now is give other people any excuse to overlook you. Always make sure that you are in the right place at the right time, otherwise a fleeting opportunity might pass you by.

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle ⬇

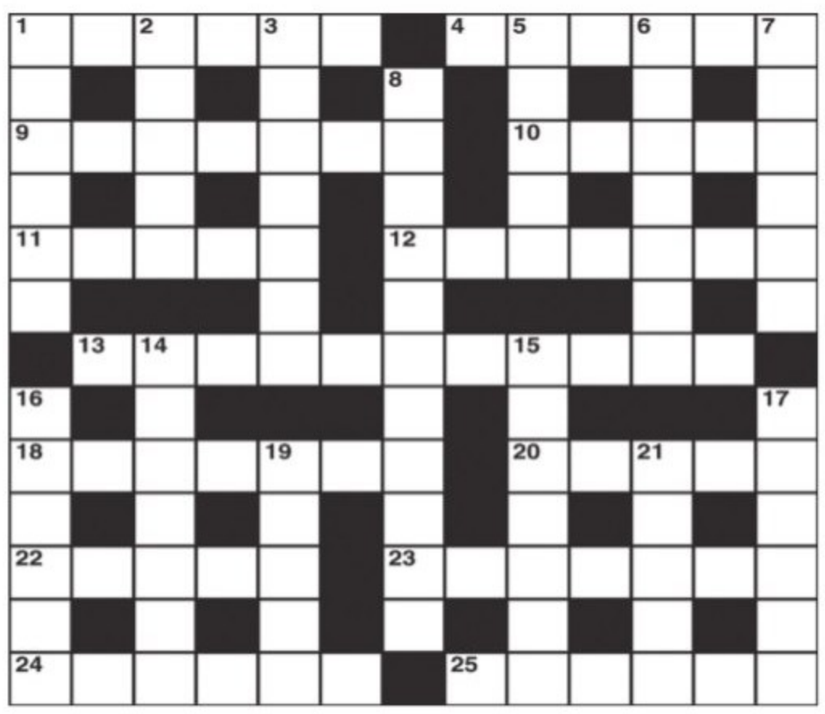
				3	1		5	2
			2		7	1		
	3		4					8
	8	6	7		3	2	4	
2		3				5		7
	1	4	5		2	6	8	
3					6		2	
		5	3		8			
9	4		1	2				

3	7	9	1	4	8	2	6	5
4	5	8	6	9	2	3	1	7
6	2	1	5	7	3	4	8	9
5	4	2	7	6	9	8	3	1
9	1	3	2	8	5	6	7	4
7	8	6	3	1	4	9	5	2
2	3	4	8	5	7	1	9	6
8	6	7	9	2	1	5	4	3
1	9	5	4	3	6	7	2	8

SUDOKU EASY

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS

1 Marital relations (2-4)
4 Religious retreats for sailor and Turks (6)
9 For thirty seconds one has quiet at least (7)
10 Superior kind of cut (5)
11 Monster fish? (5)
12 Right of access to a famous statue? (7)
13 Possibly uppermost in arrogance (11)
18 Hit by a car - not at all well (3,4)
20 Bent and crooked cedar (5)
22 Open-air types will be out of these (5)
23 Quick to declare (7)
24 Hemingway and Sterne at variance (6)
25 Give the call sign (6)

DOWN

1 I meant to put out the occupant (6)
2 Language used in schooling overseas (5)
3 Many quietly engaged in cunning capital investments (7)
5 Attractive material for a jacket? (5)
6 Grass around the seaport (7)
7 Animals unleashed on society? (6)
8 Little cared for being petty (5-6)
14 Managed to continue with foreign capital (7)
15 Walk wearily out of boisterous parties (7)
16 A game bird for example all of a flutter (6)
17 Conversion is done by inventor (6)
19 Desert island with a water supply (5)
21 Examine what's said to be a bill of exchange (5)

MONDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Vodka, 8 Waterloo, 9 Riser, 10 Leavings, 11 Assay, 12 You, 16 Solace, 17 Scythe, 18 Nee, 23 Spain, 24 Hard tack, 25 Stamp, 26 Cowslips, 27 Lying.

Down: 2 Omission, 3 Keep away, 4 Male do, 5 Leave, 6 Blank, 7 Mouse, 12 Yen, 13 Use, 14 Sympathy, 15 Chairman, 19 Escape, 20 Shock, 21 Frown, 22 Still.

JUMBLE UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

CAQUK

LUGHC

CHPIUC

GPONIE

How's it going, Champ? Ready to go another round?
Another day, another dollar.
HE GAVE UP BOXING AND GOT A JOB WHERE HE NEEDED TO ---
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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers Monday)

Monday's Jumbles: DEITY MOOSE UNPACK CLINIC
Answer: The landlord refused to sign for tenants' packages, — NO "ACCEPTIONS"

A few hours after the murder of former zilla panchayat president Srinivas, Kolar police arrested six persons near Lakshmisagara under Vemgal Police limits. The police had to fire on two persons who tried to assault them

Dog bites woman, pet owners set fire to her vehicles

Rottweiler had attacked her while returning home from work in Kothanur; she says neighbours didn't pay medical bills

RISHITA KHANNA @Bengaluru

IRKED over a woman who filed a police complaint against them after their pet, a rottweiler, attacked her, three members of a family allegedly set fire to two vehicles belonging to the woman and her son. The incident took place in Kothanur police station limits.

The vehicles belonged to Pushpa (43) and her son. The woman has accused her neighbours, HMT Rajanna alias Nagaraj, who runs a restaurant in Kothanur, his daughter Gayathri Kavya and son Babu of setting fire to the vehicles.

The police said, "On June 13, Pushpa, a housekeeper, was on her way to work when the pet dog attacked her multiple times. Babu and Gayathri, who witnessed it, rushed Pushpa to hospital for first aid and requested Pushpa and her son not to file any police complaint. Nagaraj and his wife Gowramma assured her of covering her medical expenses and even promised to give her money until she was able to work. However, they did keep their promise."

Even after a month, Pushpa said she did not get money from the family to cover her medical expenses. "As I didn't have any money for the medical expenses, I withdrew money from a chit fund, which also included Nagaraj's family as members," she said and added that she lodged a police complaint in July as the family refused to pay the medical bills.

"On Monday, Babu came near my house and demanded repayment of the chit fund money. He threatened and abused me and my son when I sought a few months time to repay the chit fund money. Around 3 am on Tuesday, we got up to the sound of a siren. We rushed down only to find both the vehicles were set on fire. We along with the other neighbours tried dousing the fire but the vehicles were gutted by then," Pushpa explained.

A case has been registered with Kothanur police station. Further investigation is in progress.

NO TAKERS

Unsold banana stalks at KR Market in Bengaluru on Tuesday after the Dasara festival | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

Docs: Viral diseases occur throughout the year now

NAMRATA SINDWANI @Bengaluru

VIRUS-borne diseases are no longer seasonal as doctors have observed that people get infected all the year round in the post-pandemic era.

Though the frequency of cases alarmingly rises during the weather-changing months, family members or work colleagues tend to suffer from flu-like symptoms like cold, cough, fever or body aches throughout the year now. Earlier, diseases like viral fever, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) infection, or other viral-borne diseases like dengue, chikungunya, conjunctivitis, malaria, and stomach infections were seasonal, but now it affects people throughout the year.

Dr Rajath Athreya, Senior Consultant and Head of the Department (paediatrics and neonatology), Sakra World Hospital, said they are seeing around 20 viral fever cases in their outpatient department (OPD), of which one might require hospital admission. Symptoms like cough, sore throat, fever, body pain, and headache are the most consistent, lasting up to three-seven days.

Dr Athreya said during the Covid years, several viruses came into circulation, and people were not exposed to them due to the lockdown. Now, with every changing season, some old viruses or their mutations are circulating leading to flu-like cases. Post-Covid, individuals are being seen to build an exaggerated immune response, which pro-actively reacts to viruses, causing fever or cold.

With the onset of monsoon season in June, Bengaluru witnessed a spike in dengue and dengue-like cases, RSV infections, viral pneumonia, conjunctivitis and gastroenteritis cases. The fear of Covid is gone now but experts suggest continuing wearing masks and following Covid-appropriate behaviour (CAB) to minimize the risk of infection. As explained, the virus keeps mutating, hence, even doctors face difficulty in understanding the exact cause of the flu at certain times.

Asked to opt for multiplex card, man loses Rs 1 lakh

RISHITA KHANNA @Bengaluru

A joyous family movie outing took an unexpected turn when a man lost over Rs 1 lakh after agreeing to buy a multiplex gold card subscription. Ajay (name changed) was enticed into purchasing a multiplex gold card that promised free subscriptions and various offers from a private bank. To verify his address for card delivery, he shared his Aadhaar card and PAN card information. During this process, he was asked to provide an OTP, after which his bank balance dropped to Rs 200 from Rs 1,18,200.

On October 14, Ajay, a resident of Chandra Layout, who runs a garment trading business in Nagarabhavi, went to watch a movie at a mall on Mysore Road. He was offered a complimentary multiplex gold card that is exclusive during weekends. Enticed by the offer, he consented to provide his Aadhaar and PAN cards. He also shared the OTP.

Ajay said, "On October 15, when I checked the online bank portal, my bank balance was reduced to Rs 200 from Rs 1,18,200 after four subsequent transactions, but didn't get any debit message from the bank. On contacting my bank, they informed me that debits occurred because I had shared the OTP, which granted access to my bank account due to the account being Aadhaar enabled. He added the bank informed him that the four transactions of Rs 99,999, Rs 1, Rs 15,000 and Rs 3,000 totalling Rs 1,18,000 were transferred to a private bank account held by one Debendu Mishra.

An officer said, "The multiplex informed us that they do not request credentials linked to any official documents. We are yet to ascertain whether the victim had been defrauded by the multiplex or if his case is connected to the Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AEPS). Many people carelessly share their Aadhaar details on various portals and end up losing money." A case has been registered with the Byatarayanapura police under the IT Act.

3 kg gold seized from flyers at KIA, two arrested

Bengaluru: Customs officials seized nearly 3 kg of gold worth Rs 1.76 crore from four passengers at the KIA on October 22. A man and a woman, who arrived via Malaysian Airlines, concealed the gold in their waist belts. The woman hailed from Tamil Nadu while the man was a Malaysian. She had concealed 836.32 gram of gold valued at Rs 49,76,104 while he had 1112.58 gram valued at Rs 66,19,151. A passenger from Kerala arriving from Dubai, had concealed 924 gram of gold in his rectum. It is valued at Rs 54,97,800. A passenger from Colombo had worn a rhodium coated gold chain under his T-shirt. The gold weighed 79 gram valued at Rs 4,46,350. Two passengers have been arrested. ENS

Two held for running army recruitment scam

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

IN a joint operation carried out by the Military Intelligence and the Srirampura police of Chitradurga district, a fraudster and his accomplice were arrested from Chitradurga for allegedly defrauding 150 youths of Rs 1 crore under the pretext of providing them jobs in the Indian Army, Air Force and Navy.

The accused have been identified as Shivaraj Vatagal (40), a resident of Hubballi and a deserter of the Indian Army, and his accomplice Bheemavva. "The victims hail from different districts of Karnataka like Chitradurga, Davanagere and Haveri. Items like fake identity cards and army recruitment-related documents were recovered from them," an official release stated.

FAKE EMAIL

A case of forgery using a fake email address in the name of the Recruiting Office (Headquarter), Bengaluru, has come to light wherein a fake email with a forged letter attached is being circulated to all selected candidates from Mysuru Recruitment Rally 2023.

The rally was conducted by the Recruitment Office, Bengaluru. "Fake email is being sent from a fraud email address 'arobengaluruhq@gmail.com' which does not belong to this office. All candidates are requested to block this email address permanently. FIR against the same has already been filed with the police department," an official release said.

"All candidates are requested to note that all communications are forwarded from the recruiting office to all the candidates by their official Email address arobengaluru@gmail.com," the release stated, adding that in case of any clarification, aspirants may contact the Recruiting Office on their official email address or 080-29516517.

EXPRESS READ

Man drowns while swimming in city lake

Bengaluru: A 33-year-old man drowned while swimming under the influence of alcohol in Vibhutipura Lake. The deceased, Samuel, a resident of Vibhutipura, was a bar-bending labourer. Around 12.30 pm on Tuesday, he told his family that he was going for swimming and consumed alcohol before leaving. A case of unnatural death has been registered with the HAL police station. ENS

WANTED

SRI VENKATESHWARA CHENDIL KUMARAN HIGH SCHOOL T R NAGAR BENGALURU 560070 run by Friends Cultural Educational Trust invites application to fill the newly sanctioned Tamil language Teacher post [BA.B.Ed or B.Lit.B.Ed] from the Deparment of Public Instruction vide memo no. C8[3] sha-shi-ha khahubha-Anu 222/2019-20. Advertisement Issued. on may 29th 2022 and interview called on 27.07.2022 Stands cancelled due to technical problem. Eligible candidate Should apply with their application and Educational Documents within 24 days of the publication of this advertisement to the chairman Friends Cultural Educational Trust and Copy to the Deputy Director City south District, Kalasipalyam, Bengaluru. [Only one Aided post major Tamil Subjects.]

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to the information of general public that, the schedule property is the subject matter of appeal before the DRAT at Chennai in DRAT No.R.A.[S.A] 16/2022 including possession. Any person/s dealing with anybody other than Mr. P.L.Venkataramа Reddy & Smt. M.S.Nalini Reddy, at No.18, Manish Mansion, 3rd Main Road, N.R.Colony, Bengaluru – 560019 shall do so at their own risk and costs.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the Southern Portion of the property bearing No.232, New BBMP Katha No.21/1, 39th C Cross, 9th Main, 5th Block, Jayanagar Extension, Bengaluru –560041 measuring East to West : 45 feet and North to South: 37 feet in all measuring 1665 Sq.ft. along with building of about 40.43 Sq and bounded on :

East by : 9th Main Road
West by : Site No.231
North by : Remaining Portion of the same property.
South by : Site No.233.

[P.L.VENKATARAMA REDDY & M.S. NALINI REDDY]
No.18, Manish Mansion, 3rd Main Road, N.R.Colony, Bengaluru- 560 019.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby notified that one of our client proposes to purchase the property described in the Schedule herein from Mrs. D. Vijayalakshmi and Mrs. D.S. Pushpalatha and M/s. Surya Shakti Greenlands Pvt Ltd.,

Persons objecting for the proposed purchase or having any rights in the below mentioned property may lodge their objections and/or claims with the undersigned along with the supporting documentary evidence within 15 days from the date of this publication. Claim received thereafter will not be binding on our client and our client will proceed to purchase the below mentioned property as if there are no claims/objections.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of property Flat No. B-504, in Fifth Level, measuring super built up area including common area 1832 Sq.Ft, in the project known as "KEERTHI SURYA SAKTI TOWERS" carved out of Sy. No. 192/4 measuring 2 acre 16 guntas, situated at Hoodi Village, Krishnarajapura Hobli, Bangalore Eat Taluk, Bangalore

Adv. Anupam Agarwal
Ramniwas Surajmal (Advocates & Solicitors), No. 511, 5th Floor, A Wing, Mittal Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore- 560 001.
anupam@rslegal.in Mobile: 97406 45762
Date: 23/10/2023 Place: Bangalore

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public is hereby notified that, one of my clients intend to purchase the Items of Schedule Property mentioned herein below from Mr. Syed Pacha S/o Late Akbae @ Akbar Sha and his family members who are the absolute owners in possession and enjoyment of the same. The person/s who have right, title, interest or claim of any nature over the aforesaid Schedule Property may forward their claim/s, if any, in writing together with the supported documents to the under mentioned within 07 days from the date of this notification. If no claims or objections are received within the above stipulated period, my client/s shall proceed to purchase the same presuming that there are no claims of any nature from any third parties in respect of the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Item No.1: All that piece and parcel of the vacant property land measuring 01 acre 04 guntas, in old Sy.No.96, new Sy.No.96/8 of Medimallasandra Village, Anagondanahalli Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bengaluru (R) District and bounded on: East by: Land in Sy.No.96/2; West by: Kallukunte Agrahara boundary; North by: Land in Sy.No.96/11; South by: Road.

Item No.2: All that piece and parcel of the vacant property land measuring 01 acre 03 guntas, in old Sy.No.96, new Sy.No.96/9 of Medimallasandra Village, Anagondanahalli Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bengaluru (R) District and bounded on: East by: Land in Sy. No.96/2; West by: Road & Land in Sy.No.96/3; North by: Land in Sy.No.96/10; South by: Road.

DHARMENDRA ASSOCIATES
ADVOCATES
No.01, Ground Floor, AIT Campus, 1st Main Road, Ananda Nagar

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala)
Corporate Identification No. U40109PB2010SGC033813, Website : www.pspcl.in
(Contact number - 9646118773)

Tender Enquiry No.: Q-4020/23-24/PO-T/CE-MM

Chief Purchase officer/MM, Central Purchase Organization, PSPCL, 2nd Floor, Multi Storey Building, The Mall, PSPCL invites E-tender of 29,800 Nos., 3-ph, 16kVA, EEL-2 (As per Amendment no. 4 to IS 1180)/Star-2 (New), ISI Marked, 11/0.433 KV, 50 cycles, outdoor type, oil immersed, naturally cooled, core or Shell type, Stack/wound core type construction (aluminium wound), CRGO/Amorphous core distribution transformers complete with fittings as per PSPCL specification & conforming to IS 1180 Part-1 (2014) & 2026 (with latest amendments). For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 25.10.2023 onwards.

Note:- Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in. PSPCL reserves the right to increase/ decrease/ nullify the NIT quantity without assigning any reason.

982/C-762/23-10/2023
76155/12/2326/2023/29161

GOA STATE INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED

7th Floor, EDC House, Dr. Atmaram Borkar Road, Panaji - Goa
Tel.: (0832)-2493550 Email: email@gsidcltd.com GSIDC

TENDER NOTICE

No: GSIDC/ENGG./NIT-84/2023-24 Date: 23/10/2023

GSIDC invites online bids under two bid system on Item Rate Basis from eligible Contractors / Agencies for the work of "Construction of New Premises for Community Health Center at Tuem, Pernem, Goa - Balance Fire Fighting Works."- (2nd Call) – (Estimated Cost – Rs.72,52,638.47).

For detailed Tender Notice, please visit website https://www.gsidcltd.com

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001
Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813, Website : www.pspcl.in
(Contact No.96461-22185)

Tender Enquiry No. 291/SS(D)-II (under RDSS) Dated: 20.10.2023

Dy.CE/Substation Design / TS Organization, PSPCL, C-1, Shakthi Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala invites E-tender for Manufacture, Testing, Supply & Delivery of 561 nos. 11kV VCB Panels (SCADA-Compatible) of assorted types / ratios (under RDSS). For detailed NIT & Tender Specification, please refer to https://gem.gov.in/ from 20.10.2023 (01.00 PM onwards), having GeM Bid Number as "GEM/2023/B/4115399"

Note:- Corrigendum and amendments, if any, will be published online at https://gem.gov.in/

981/C-761/23-10/23/2023
76155/12/2325/2023/29160

ARMY INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT KOLKATA
(ISO 9001:2015, AICTE & MAKAUT)
EMPLOYMENT NOTIFICATION

APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR

- Army Institute of Management, Kolkata (AIMK) established in July 1997 by the Army Welfare Education Society (AWES), New Delhi is a ranked B-school in the country (Approved by the AICTE and affiliated to MAKAUT). The Institute conducts a two-year full time MBA degree residential programme.
- AIMK invites applications for the post of Director to be employed on full time term based on contract basis.
- For more details, please follow our website (www.aim.ac.in / important links / notices / employment-notification). Last date of receipt of applications is 15th November 2023. Shortlisted candidates would be called for interview on or after 25th November 2023 at Kolkata. No TA / DA is admissible.

Chairman (AIMK)
Army Institute of Management Kolkata
(For any query contact : Director (AWES Cell), Eastern Command, Tele: 033-22624903, ASCON- 2346, and email : dirawes.ec@awesindia.edu.in)

OPPORTUNITIES

General

NIRMALAGIRI COLLEGE
(NAAC Re accredited with A++ Grade)
Affiliated to Kannur University
Nirmalagiri P.O., Kannur, Kerala, 670 701. Ph: 0490 2361247
Website: www.nirmalagiricollege.ac.in
E mail: nirmalagiricollege@gmail.com

Applications are invited for the following Post:

Principal - 01 (Unreserved)

Qualification and other requirements are as per UGC, Kerala State and Kannur University Rules and Regulations.

Application forms can be had from the college office on payment of ₹ 1000 (₹ 1050 by post). Duly filled in applications should reach the college office within 30 days from the date of this notification.

N.B: As there is currently no sufficient workload in the Economics discipline, applicants from outside the college belonging to the Economics discipline cannot apply for this post.

Manager

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अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान, नागपुर
ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, NAGPUR
Address: Plot no.2, Sector -20, MIHAN, Nagpur - 441108
Website: https://aiimsnagpur.edu.in

Advt. No. AIIMS/NGP/Admin I/Faculty/2023/09 Dated: 25/10/2023

ADVERTISEMENT FOR RECRUITMENT TO THE POSTS OF FACULTY (GROUP-A) ON DIRECT RECRUITMENT IN VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS OF AIIMS NAGPUR

Opening Date: 20/10/2023 | Closing Date: 18/11/2023

AIIMS Nagpur, established under PMSSY with objectives of improving regional imbalances in the availability of affordable/ reliable tertiary healthcare services and also to augment facilities for quality medical education in the country. The Institute has started functioning from session 2018-19. It is envisioned to develop into an institute with highest standards of teaching, training and research.

In this regard, applications are invited by the Executive Director, AIIMS, Nagpur from Indian nationals/persons registered as Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cardholder under Section 7A of the Citizenship Act, 1955 for the following faculty posts on regular basis required for AIIMS, Nagpur:

Sl.No.	Subject	Associate Professor	Assistant Professor
1	Anaesthesiology	02 (UR)	07 (03 UR, 02 OBC, 01 SC, 01 ST)
2	Anatomy	-	02 (01 UR, 01 EWS)
3	Biochemistry	-	02 (01 OBC, 01 SC)
4	Biostatistics	-	01 (UR)
5	Burns and Plastic Surgery*	01 (OBC)	01 (UR)
6	Cardiology*	-	01 (OBC)
7	Cardiothoracic Surgery*	01 (SC)	02 (01 UR, 01 SC)
8	Community and Family Medicine	-	02 (01 UR, 01 OBC)
9	Dentistry (Prosthodontist)	-	01 (ST)
10	Dermatology	-	01 (EWS)
11	Endocrinology and Metabolism*	-	01 (UR)
12	ENT	-	01 (SC)
13	Forensic Medicine and Toxicology	-	01 (OBC)
14	Gastroenterology (Medical)*	01 (ST)	-
15	General Medicine	-	02 (UR)
16	General Surgery	01 (UR)	02 (01 UR, 01 OBC)
17	Hospital Administration	-	01 (SC)
18	Medical Biotechnology	-	01 (EWS)
19	Medical Haematology*	-	01 (UR)
20	Medical Oncology*	01 (EWS)	01 (OBC)
21	Microbiology	01 (OBC)	02 (01 SC, 01 UR)
22	Neonatology*	01 (UR)	01 (OBC)
23	Nephrology*	-	01 (UR)
24	Neurology*	-	01 (ST)
25	Neurosurgery*	01 (UR)	02 (01 UR, 01 OBC)
26	Nuclear Medicine	01 (ST)	01 (SC)
27	Obstetrics and Gynaecology	-	02 (01 UR, 01 EWS)
28	Ophthalmology	01 (OBC)	01 (OBC)
29	Orthopaedics	-	01 (UR)
30	Paediatric Surgery*	01 (SC)	02 (01 SC, 01 EWS)
31	Paediatrics	-	02 (01 OBC, 01 ST)
32	Pathology/Lab Med	-	04 (02UR, 01 OBC, 01 SC)
33	Pharmacology	-	01 (UR)
34	Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation	-	01 (OBC)
35	Physiology	01 (UR)	01 (UR)
36	Psychiatry	-	02 (01 UR, 01 SC)
37	Radiodiagnosis	01 (UR)	05 (02 UR, 02 OBC, 01 EWS)
38	Radiotherapy	-	02 (01 SC,01 ST)
39	Rheumatology & Clinical Immunology*	01 (OBC)	01 (UR)
40	Surgical Gastroenterology*	01 (EWS)	01 (OBC)
41	Surgical Oncology*	01 (SC)	01 (UR)
42	Transfusion Medicine & Blood Bank	01 (UR)	-
43	Trauma & Emergency	-	03 (01 UR, 01 SC, 01 OBC)
44	Urology*	01 (OBC)	01 (EWS)
	Total	**20**	**70**
	Grand Total	**90 Posts**	

* Super Speciality Discipline # Backlog Posts

Note:

1. The format of application and details of the age limit, essential qualification and experience, pay scales, etc., and the pre-payment link for application fee are available at https://aiimsnagpur.edu.in. The aspiring applicants satisfying the eligibility criteria in all respect must submit their application through the Google link by 18-11-2023 and by Speed/Registered post to the address - The Executive Director, AIIMS Nagpur, Administrative Block, Plot No. 2, Sector - 20, MIHAN, Nagpur, Maharashtra, Pin-441108 by 25-11-2023.

Executive Director,
AIIMS, Nagpur

The state government will celebrate the 200th anniversary of Rani Chennamma's victory against the British in a grand and meaningful way next year, said Public Works and District In-charge Minister Satish Jarkiholi

WAIT OVER?

Buzz in BJP over Karandlaje getting party state chief post

But decision not likely till Dec, after polls to five states, say party sources

BANSY KALAPPA @ Bengaluru

AS BJP struggles to appoint a state president five months after its rout in the state, there is a buzz that Union Minister Shobha Karandlaje could pip others in the fray to get the post. Though Karandlaje has earlier said she is not interested, a section of leaders from within the party hope that there will be some fresh action if a new president takes over.

Karandlaje, a Vokkaliga, is known to be close to the camps of both party national general secretary BL Santhosh and senior state leader BS Yediyurappa. If appointed, her biggest challenge will be to repeat the party's performance of winning 25 of the 28 Lok Sabha seats in the state by taking all factions along and inspiring party cadres to launch a strong campaign.

But analysts felt that taking over the post at this juncture will be burdensome as there is lots to be done in a short time and a likelihood of one getting blamed for the rest of his/her political career if the parliamentary poll results are not favourable.

Though it was said earlier that a new party president would be appointed after Dasara, which concluded on Tuesday, the party did not provide any clarity. Party state General Secretary and MLC Ravikumar only said that the decision would be taken soon.

Party sources, who preferred not to be named, pointed out that the party top brass is busy with the polls to five states and they will not be available to take this crucial decision till the results are declared on December 3. "If such a decision is so near, do you think (former chief minister Basavaraj) Bommai would have gone for a surgery? Now, it is time to wait. The decision is likely only in December," they added.

First-time MLA and party state vice-president BY Vijayendra's name too is doing the rounds for the post. But some party leaders wondered as to how nearly 80 per cent of legislators who are senior to Vijayendra could work under him. But others said that Vijayendra can be effective as he will be guided by his father Yediyurappa.

Political analyst BS Murthy said BJP needs to step out and play aggressively on the front foot, considering that the Lok Sabha polls are just months away. "It will be an excellent opportunity to appoint teams from communities that the party is working hard to get the support of. The longer the party keeps the position of Leader of Opposition in the Assembly vacant and continues with a party president whose term is over, it is missing opportunities to bounce back."

BJP needs to step out and play aggressively on the front foot, considering that the Lok Sabha polls are just months away.

BS Murthy, political analyst

I AM AN ASPIRANT, SAYS RENUKACHARYA

Davanagere: Former minister MP Renukacharya on Tuesday said he is also an aspirant for the post of BJP state president, and democratic decision making should be brought back into the party. "The party should take everyone into confidence. It was during the previous elections to the state assembly that former CM BS Yediyurappa advised the party high command not to change some of the candidates. By not listening to his words, the party has fallen," he said during the Sarvajanika Vijayadashami programme here. He also said Narendra Modi should become the prime minister again and they should all work hard for this. Karnataka needs a secular and capable leader like former CM BS Yediyurappa, who steered the party to power, he said. "The time has come again to take the party in the right direction. It is better to go to the general elections under the leadership of Yediyurappa, who has secular credentials. Yediyurappa, who is in the twilight of his political career still commands respect among people of Karnataka," he added. ENS

DKS wants Kanakapura to be part of Bengaluru

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

DEPUTY Chief Minister DK Shivakumar wants his Kanakapura assembly constituency in Ramanagara district to be part of Bengaluru urban district.

Shivakumar, who is also Bengaluru Development Minister, told people of Kanakapura on Tuesday not to sell their land now as property prices will go up once his constituency is included in Bengaluru urban district.

Shivakumar was addressing a gathering after participating in a function to lay the foundation stone of a temple at Kanakapura.

"I can't help you with money to build houses or for other purposes. But now I am in power and can help you get better prices for your land by making my constituency part of Bengaluru. Your children and grandchildren will benefit. Remember, Kanakapura will not be part of Ramanagara district. It will be made part of Bengaluru soon," he said.

Meanwhile, former CM HD Kumaraswamy hit back at Shivakumar stating that it is an attempt by the DyCM to jack up real estate prices as his family owns large tracts of land in and around Kanakapura.

Kanakapura taluk is in Ramanagara district. It is 52 km away from Bengaluru. Earlier, Kanakapura was part of Bengaluru rural district. Shivakumar, who has been promoting the Brand Bengaluru concept after the Congress formed government in the state, is keen on making Kanakapura part of Bengaluru urban district. His brother DK Suresh is Bengaluru Rural MP. In 2007, when Kumaraswamy was chief minister, Ramanagara district was formed and Kanakapura was made part of it. Since then, Kumaraswamy has been trying to have his grip on Ramanagara district.

Kumaraswamy said Kanakapura is 52 km away from Bengaluru and 25 km from Ramanagara. Should the people of Kanakapura have to travel all the way to Bengaluru to get their problems addressed? Shivakumar is just trying to boost the real estate prices in Kanakapura taluk, he added.

WISHING WELL

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah meets JSS Mutt seer Sri Shivarathri Deshikendra Swami to wish him on the occasion of Dasara, in Mysuru on Tuesday | EXPRESS

HOTEL BILLS OF '22 B'GAVI SESSION YET TO BE CLEARED

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Belagavi

BELAGAVI City Corporation (BCC) Commissioner Ashok Dugunti offered to clear the bills of hotel and lodge owners for providing accommodation and other services to legislators, their staff and government officials during the winter session held here last year.

Meeting hotel and lodged owners on Monday, he said that after verifying the bills, they will be produced before the district administration, which will then approve them.

This year, the government is likely to hold the winter session here between December 4 and 15. The city authorities earlier held a meeting with hotel and lodge owners, asking them to reserve rooms for public representatives and government officers attending the session. But the hotel owners complained that the bills for the 2022 winter session were still pending.

Belagavi Hotel Owners' Association (BHOA) president Ajay Pai said that Dudagunti asked the association to collect all the details, within a week, as to how many hotels have received the payments and how many are pending. He said a few prominent hotels in the city have not yet registered as members of BHOA. "We have asked them to get registered and submit the details within a week to allow the association to submit them to BCC. The details are then forwarded to the district administration. Only after that the total amount of pending and non-pending bills can be calculated," he said.

BCC officials had assured the hotel and lodge owners that they would clear the pending bills at the earliest. Following that, Dudagunti had the meeting. He was not available.

Cong meet to discuss T'gana ticket distribution

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Kalaburagi

THE All-India Congress Committee (AICC) will hold a special meeting in New Delhi on Wednesday to discuss the issue of ticket distribution in Telangana ahead of the Assembly elections in the state, said party president Mallikarjun Kharge. In a brief chat with the media in Kalaburagi on Monday, Kharge said that he would fly to New Delhi in a special flight from Kalaburagi at 8.30 am on Wednesday.

Kharge who reached Kalaburagi on Monday afternoon, spent most of his time at Buddha Vihar participating in the 67th Dharmachakrapravartana Day on Tuesday. Kharge was accompanied by his family, including wife Radhabai, Minister for Medical Education Dr Sharanaprakash Patil, and others.

Kharge has been participating every year in Dharmachakrapravartana Day (which falls on Dasara day) at Buddha Vihar in Kalaburagi.

FOREST DEPT TO PROBE POSSESSION OF WILDLIFE ITEMS BY ACTOR, SEER

AKNISREE KARTHIK
@Bengaluru

AFTER arresting Santhosh Kumar, a contestant of Bigg Boss-Kannada, from the sets for allegedly wearing a tiger claw pendant, social media was flooded with photos of Kannada film actor Darshan purportedly wearing a similar pendant and many demanded action against him. Karnataka forest department officials said they are aware of the allegations and jurisdictional officers are already put on the job to investigate it.

Netizens also demanded action against the seer of Gowrigadde Ashram in Chikkamagaluru, Vinay Guruji, for allegedly possessing a tiger pelt. A top forest official told TNIE, "Though we have not received any complaint against the two, we have information that they are in possession of wildlife body parts. The jurisdictional forest officials will start investigating based on the information they have."

He said, "If they are found in possession without prior permission from Chief Wildlife Warden, action will be initiated against them as per law."

He clarified that officials cannot per se make out whether the actor was wearing a 'tiger claw' pendant as such items, made out of plastic, are available in the market. "Officials will have to verify the wildlife possession through a forensic test, like how we did in the case of Santhosh Kumar, and then proceed," he added.

On Santhosh Kumar's case, he said that once the investigation is over, the report will be submitted to the court for further action.

Santhosh Kumar

Asked whether people who possess wildlife articles can surrender them to forest officials and prevent legal action, the forest department official said, "As of now, the forest law does not provide any direction on disposing of wildlife articles. After Santhosh Kumar's arrest, there may be people who are in possession coming forward to surrender them. There may be people who might have inherited wildlife articles and not declared them. They are unaware that possession of items like elephant ivory, elephant tail hair, teeth, hides of wild animals, etc. is illegal according to the Wildlife Protection Act 1972 and leads to legal trouble."

He said, "We will explore if we can do something within the legal framework so that no action is taken against them after they surrender their possessions."

People are unaware that possession of items like elephant ivory, elephant tail hair, teeth, hides of wild animals, etc. is illegal according to the Wildlife Protection Act 1972 and leads to legal trouble — Forest official

'No need to change dist's name'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

OPPOSING the move, Krishna Kolhar Kulkarni, historian, writer and recipient of Rajyotsava Award, said, "I was against the decision of the government to change the name of Bijapur to Vijayapura. The region has been identified as Bijapur for over three centuries. For no reason, the name was changed to Vijayapura. The government wants to change the name of the district again, which is pragmatically incorrect."

"You can develop Basavanabagewadi taluk where Basaveshwara was born. We already have a train, 'Basava Express', named after him, and there is a proposal to name the new airport here after Basaveshwara. There is no need to change the name of the district again," he said.

NIA: Shariq made bomb on directions of 'Colonel'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

THE duo was among the eight accused booked after the murder of Prem Singh in Shivamogga in August 2022 for their larger conspiracy. The NIA also revealed that the prime accused, Mohamed Shariq, prepared a pressure cooker bomb on the directions of the 'Colonel'. The cooker bomb exploded while he was on his way to plant it at Kadri temple in Mangaluru.

On the directions of the 'Colonel', the accused targeted goods vehicles, liquor outlets, and paint and hardware shops belonging to the Hindus in Shivamogga, Brahmavar and Surathkal and a windmill station at Honnali. They also shared a video of burning of a tricolour with the 'Colonel'. The accused used end-to-end encrypted communication platforms, including Session, Protected Text, etc. to hide their identity. They also conducted a trial blast as per the directions of the 'Colonel', who provided them funds.

Syed Yasin, an accused, was involved in the commissioning of a trial blast of an IED on the banks of the Tunga and Maaz Muneer Ahmed intentionally possessed and hid the explosives on the banks of the Nethravathi in Mangaluru.

Shariq and Maaz attended a jungle survival camp organised by the Wild Survival Academy in Kodagu. Shariq procured a GPS tracker, which was used by them for location mapping, during the camp. Besides, the team collected documents from the Railways to show that Shariq and Maaz visited Mumbai, where they purchased spy glasses, a high-end torch, binoculars, Swiss knives, etc.

FITTING FINALE

Powered by Shakti, nearly 10 lakh people witness Jamboo Savari

SHIVA KUMAR @ Mysuru

THE grand finale of this year's traditional Dasara, instead of a grand one in the middle of a severe drought in the state, was witnessed by lakhs of people, who had come from across the state to witness the world-famous Jamboo Savari procession on Tuesday.

The prevailing drought condition in 221 taluks did not dampen the spirit of the celebrations as women, aided by the state government's Shakti scheme that allows them to travel free in state transport buses, turned up in large numbers.

Under the scorching sun, throngs of people started reserving spots along the procession route since morning, though it started only around 1.45 pm. The procession showcased the cultural heritage, historical references and other major features of different districts.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shiva Kumar, district in-charge minister HC Mahadevappa, scion of the Mysuru royal family Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar offered flowers to the presiding deity Chamundeshwari placed in the 750 kg golden howdah being carried by elephant Abhimanyu, marking the start of the procession. Though the scheduled time was 5 pm in Meena Lagna, it was delayed by nine minutes. Then, the caparisoned elephants began their journey towards Bannimantap.

People throng the Jamboo Savari that started from Mysuru Palace on the concluding day of Dasara celebrations in Mysuru on Tuesday | EXPRESS

People stood up and prayed with folded hands as the deity on the elephant passed in front of them, and raised slogans hailing the goddess. As the muhurtham for the start of the procession was in the evening, it reached Bannimantap at 7.30 pm.

Earlier, Siddaramaiah inaugurated the Dasara procession by offering puja to Nandhi Dhawja at Balarama Gate at Makara Langa from 1.46 to 2.07 pm to kickstart the procession. He extended his greetings and prayed for the welfare and prosperity of the people. He said they will pray for rain as farmers are in distress.

He said the government had decided to hold a grand Dasara, but dropped the plan to stick to a traditional Dasara that attracted over 10 lakh people on the final day.

The procession had 49 tableaux, including those depicting Belur-Halebid, Somanathpur that was declared as World Heritage Site recently, contributions of Nalvadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar, the Indian Constitution and Sabarmati Ashram.

The government's guarantee schemes too were featured. In all, 140 cultural troupes with over 3,000 artistes performed on the streets during the procession that wound through the main streets of Mysuru for over two-and-a-half hours.

Thousands of passengers faced hardship due to delayed services in the Chennai-Arakkonam section after three coaches of an empty suburban train derailed in Avadi on Tuesday morning. All intercity trains operating from Chennai to Coimbatore, Tirupati, and Bengaluru, including the Vande Bharat, experienced delays of 2-3 hours

The mangled remains of the SUV that collided with a TNSTC bus near Chengam on Monday night | EXPRESS

Eight killed as SUV crashes into TNSTC bus

Car carried 11 people, all employed at a firm near Hosur; 6 victims hailed from Assam

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Tiruvannamalai

IN the second major accident on the Tindivanam-Krishnagiri stretch of Bengaluru National Highway in Tirunvannamalai district in a week, eight men were killed when an SUV collided with a government bus near Chengam on Monday night.

A similar accident on October 15, on the same stretch of the national highway, had left seven people dead when a car collided with a lorry.

Police said 11 people, all employed at a factory near Hosur, were in the SUV which was returning from Puducherry on Ayudha Pooja day. Six of the deceased hailed from Assam and two were from Tamil Nadu. While passengers on the TNSTC bus were unharmed, police said seven of those in the SUV perished on the spot and four were hospitalised. Of them, one man succumbed to his injuries at the Vellore government hospital on Tuesday evening. "We filed an FIR against the bus driver, and further probe is on. To prevent future accidents, we plan to install warning boards and place barricades on this stretch," Vellore range DIG MS Muthusamy told *The New Indian Express*.

Police said the TNSTC bus was travelling from Bengaluru to Tiruvannamalai while the workers were headed towards Hosur in a Tata Sumo. At around 9.30 pm, the vehicles collided on a narrow stretch without a median, resulting in the accident. Police suspect the drivers might have dozed off.

The deceased were identified as Biskeshmurmu (29), Bhimaltheerki (26), Niklas (22), Talu (26), Gunjsarayi (24), Narayanan Chetty (35), Kamaraj (29), and Narayan Chetty (35). The bodies have been sent for autopsy.

The survivors, Stephen Oro (43), Sadon Orang (25), and Gizmoth (32), are being treated at government hospitals in Tiruvannamalai and Vellore.

Hearing, speech impaired boys run over by train

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Chennai

THREE boys with hearing and speech disabilities, visiting family for the holidays, were run over by an electric train and killed near Urapakkam on Tuesday.

They were playing near the tracks when the tragedy occurred. Police said they neither saw the train coming nor heard its horn.

The boys were identified as J Suresh (14) and J Ravi (12) and

(L-R) Ravi, Suresh and Manjunath | EXPRESS

H Manjunath (11). Suresh and Ravi were brothers and had a hearing impairment while Manjunath was speech impaired. They were students at a government boarding school for disabled students in Karnataka and came to Chennai three days ago to visit their parents over the holidays, police said.

The brothers' father Jambaiya and Manjunath's father Hanumanthan were originally from Hubballi and settled in Chennai 20 years ago, taking up odd jobs.

The families resided and worked at Urapakkam.

Around noon on Tuesday, the boys went out to play and ventured too close to the tracks between Urapakkam and Vandalur railway station. As they were playing, an electric train, from Chennai Beach station headed to Chengalpattu, was moving along the tracks.

"The train hit them. They sustained severe injuries and died on the spot," said police. Tambaram Railway Police recovered the bodies, which were sent for postmortem. A case was registered and a probe initiated.

ELSEWHERE FROM SOUTH

Mild tremor felt in parts of Raichur district

RAICHUR: A mild earthquake measuring 2.7 magnitude on the Ritcher Scale was felt at a few villages of Lingasugur taluk (Raichur district) near Hatti Gold Mines at 2.51 am of Monday. The epicentre of the earthquake was 2.6 km south west of Hatti Gram Panchayat of Lingasugur taluk. The earthquake was felt at Hatti, Nilogal, Veerapur and Gejjalagatta villages, stated Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre. **ENS**

Raja Raja Chola Sathaya Vizha begins

THANJAVUR: The 'Sathaya Vizha' marking the birth anniversary of Raja Raja Chola got underway here on Tuesday with an inaugural event at Big Temple. Collector Deepak Jacob presided over the function where tributes were paid at the 11th century statue of Raja Raja Chola located outside the temple. He said the temple stands as a symbol of spiritual tradition, architecture, culture and civilisation. **ENS**

VIDYARAMBHAM

Kerala Governor Arif Mahammad Khan introducing a kid to the world of letters (Vidyarambham) at Raj Bhavan in Thiruvananthapuram on Tuesday | EXPRESS

SI shifted for 'disrespecting' Tricolour outside Chepauk

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Chennai

A sub-inspector of police from Chennai was transferred and posted at the modern control room on Tuesday after a video of him snatching a few Indian flags and throwing them in a plastic container near MA Chidambaram Stadium went viral. Sources said an inquiry has been initiated and action will be taken against the officer based on the report.

The issue gained more attraction on social media after TN BJP unit president K Annamalai condemned the ruling DMK on platform X, alleging that the Dravidian major had "stooped down to an all-new low by banning" the national flag inside Chepauk stadium.

The video shows the SI taking two national flags out from a plastic container while people ask him not to put the flag into it. He is then seen taking the flag to his police vehicle.

Clarifying on the issue, a senior police official said sub-inspector Nagarajan attached to Law and Order division of the Sembium police station was on security duty on Monday afternoon in view of the ongoing cricket match between Pakistan and Afghanistan at MA Chidambaram Stadium.

"While on duty, some of the sellers were roaming around selling flags and other items. Since it was not permitted to sell any item within a few yards of the stadium, the sub-inspector was forcibly collecting the flags and other items and throwing them into a plastic container which was used for storing items recovered from audience entering the stadium while frisking," the senior official said.

There were instructions to look for sensitive boards and posters that might create trouble, but there were no restrictions on flags, he said.

In a post on X, Annamalai said, "Udhayanidhi Stalin had problems with 'Jai Shri Ram' chant during the cricket match against Pakistan, having forgotten the treatment meted out to our players in Pakistan in the past. DMK Minister Ponmudy's son and TNCA president Ashok Sigamani have taken their political propaganda one step further and insulted our national flag today."

MEDIGADDA

Cops form teams to probe damage to barrage

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bhupalpally

THE Bhupalpally police, who registered a case based on a complaint lodged by engineering officials regarding the damage to the piers of Medigadda barrage, on Tuesday said that they can come to a conclusion only after the expert committee submits its report. The police have formed special teams to probe into the incident.

The Bhupalpally police, it appears, were in confusion after registering the case and issued different press releases regarding the incident on Tuesday. In a press release issued earlier in the day, Bhupalpally SP Kiran Khare said, "After scientific investigation, police have ruled out the possibility of any conspiracy. Prima facie, damage to the Medigadda barrage happened due to a structural fault. Today, the National Dam Safety Authority inspected the barrage. They will submit their findings soon".

When SP's statement was brought to the notice of Irrigation officials, a top official told *TNIE*: "How can the police conclude that it is a structural fault?" His point was that the police were not competent to decide whether it was a structural defect or not. Later, the SP was quick to retract his statement. The second press release was silent on the 'scientific investigation done by the police' and the 'structural fault', going on to say that the police would come to a conclusion only after the expert teams gave their report. In the first release, the SP ruled out the possibility of any conspiracy'. But, the second release was silent on 'conspiracy', he said.

Naveen's pvt secy takes VRS, gets cabinet-rank post

BIJAY CHAKI @ Bhubaneswar

A day after taking voluntary retirement, former IAS officer and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's private secretary VK Pandian was appointed as chairman 5T (transformational initiatives) and Nabin Odisha in the rank of cabinet minister on Tuesday.

Pandian will directly work under the chief minister, a notification issued by the general administration and public grievance department said.

However, speculation is rife in political circles about the political role to be played by Pandian. While opposition BJP and Congress maintained that the new appointment of Pandian is political with more power over the government and BJD, the ruling party said that it will further accelerate the pace of development in the State.

The move, though, seems to have disarmed the opposition political parties as both the BJP and Congress are of the opinion that now Pandian can enter politics. His whirlwind district tours had evoked strong

VK Pandian

political reaction with the two parties demanding that he resign from the IAS and join politics. State BJP president Manmohan Samal told media persons that there is no objection to Pandian now entering politics There is nothing wrong for a retired IAS officer to enter politics and there are many such persons in BJP also, he said and added that the BJP had opposed the system, not the person. "Now he can enter politics," he added.

Pandian, who also served as 5T Secretary to the state government, had taken centre stage in the Naveen Patnaik government with not only the bureaucracy but also the entire BJD looking up to him as the representative of the chief minister.

The 2000-batch IAS officer of the Odisha cadre began his bureaucratic career as the sub-collector of Dharmagarh in Kalahandi district in 2002. He was appointed the collector of Mayurbhanj district in 2005, and then in 2007, he was made the collector of Ganjam. Pandian joined the Chief Minister's Office in 2011, and since then, he served as the private secretary to the CM till he took VRS.

Elephant Netravathi with its calf at the Sakrebailu camp in Shivamogga district on Tuesday | SHIMOGA NANDAN

Woman with double uterus delivers after surgery in B'luru

ENS @ Bengaluru

A 29-year-old woman, diagnosed with uterus didelphys (double uterus), who previously had four back-to-back miscarriages, delivered a healthy baby after undergoing a complex laparoscopic surgery at a Bengaluru hospital. The woman suffered from a mullerian anomaly, a congenital irregularity in her reproductive system affecting the development of the uterus, cervix and vagina, the doctors said. This condition results in unusual shapes in the reproductive system causing fertility or pregnancy issues. If such conditions are not appropriately treated, it can cause recurrent miscarriages and premature births.

The treating doctor, Dr B Ramesh, founder and medical director of Altius Hospital, said, "Women with mullerian anomalies typically experience recurrent miscarriages and many have trouble conceiving. This has a physical as well as an emotional impact on them. The laparoscopic unification of the uterus gives them hope to face these challenges. We have seen several cases where women who have had six-seven abortions due to a double uterus have been able to achieve motherhood post-unification surgery."

Freedom fighters: Guv, DMK in new row

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Chennai/Tiruchy

TAMIL Nadu Governor RN Ravi and the ruling DMK are embroiled in a fresh row after the former accused the government of downplaying the legacy of freedom fighters in the state while participating in a memorial function for the Maruthu brothers who fought against the British in 18th century.

On Monday, Ravi charged that the identity and contributions of freedom fighters were occasionally celebrated on their anniversaries, for the vote bank. "Here is a society, which is badly fragmented along caste lines. I have not come across

TN CM MK Stalin and Governor RN Ravi

any state in India where students go to school wearing caste bands. When society is fragmented in terms of castes and national heroes have been forgotten by authorities, the castes own them. That's how our national leaders are reduced to caste leaders today," he said.

CM and DMK president MK Stalin took an indirect jibe at the governor in his message on Tuesday, saying whenever the DMK ruled TN, it propagated the glories of freedom fighters. "The last days of Mahatma Gandhi would reveal the history of the 'instant patriots' who speak with nuance but a poisonous motive now. Freedom fighter and poet Subramania Bharathi described such people as fake swadeshis."

Meanwhile, DMK treasurer TR Baalu said the governor has been expressing views against the popular government in Tamil Nadu and speaking against the sentiments of the people of the state.

LIFE CUT SHORT

Cancer patient killed after ambulance rams goods vehicle

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

A 40-year-old cancer patient, who was being shifted to Bengaluru from Chitradurga in an ambulance for further treatment, died on the spot while five others were injured as their vehicle rammed a goods vehicle at Bommanahalli near Nelamangala here on Monday.

The police said the deceased, Vijay Kumar, a private school teacher, had been battling cancer for three years. He was being shifted to Kidwai Hospital from Chitradurga when the incident happened.

Six people, including Vijay, were inside the ambulance when it rammed the goods vehicle.

All five of them, including four family members and the driver, sustained injuries and are currently under treatment at a hospital in Nelamangala, the police added.

The goods vehicle driver fled from the spot after the incident. A case has been registered with the Nelamangala traffic police station. Further investigation is ongoing.

Boy falls off train in Hubballi station, alert RPF personnel rescue him

MALLIKARJUN HIREMATH
@ Hubballi

TIMELY action by the Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel saved the life of a six-year-old boy who fell off a moving train at Hubballi's Sri Siddharoodha Swamiji Railway Station on Sunday. The boy miraculously escaped unhurt.

The RPF men are receiving appreciation from various quarters after a video of the incident went viral on social media. In the video, the boy can be seen falling from a slow moving train and getting stuck between the train and the platform.

RPF personnel can be seen rushing to the spot and catching hold of him. They then tell the passengers inside to immediately pull the train's chain. The train stops and the boy is pulled out safely from under the train. He is later handed over to his parents.

According to RPF sources, the minor boy fell down from the train when he had come near the train's door with his parents.

RPF staffer Sulochana S Hiremath was instrumental in rescuing the boy.

The source also said that the RPF will continue to educate passengers on safety measures.

Procession off as S'mogga Dasara jumbo gives birth

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Shivamogga

THE Jamboo Savari of Shivamogga Dasara was cancelled after the designated female elephant Netravathi gave birth on Monday evening.

Three elephants from Sakrebailu elephant camp — Sagar, Netravathi and Hemavathi — were brought here on October 20 to be part of the grand procession of Shivamogga Dasara. The three elephants were camped on the premises of Vasavi School on Kote Road and every day they were undergoing training in the city.

Sagar was the main elephant that was supposed to carry the howdah and both Netravathi and Hemavathi used to accompany him on either side during the procession.

During the last year Dasara procession, three elephants — Sagar, Netravathi and Bhanumathi — were part of the procession. But this time, Hemavathi replaced Bhanumathi, as she was pregnant. Interestingly, Netravathi delivered calf before Bhanumathi. Both Netravathi and its female calf were sent to the Sakrebailu elephant camp on Tuesday morning itself.

This was the second time when the elephant that came from Sakrebailu camp for Dasara procession gave birth to a calf. Earlier, elephant Kunti too gave birth when it was part of the procession.

Meanwhile, talking to media persons here on Tuesday, MLA S N Channabasappa said it is a celebration time for all, as Netravathi gave birth to a calf on this Vijayadashami day.

But, other two elephants Sagar and Hemavathi would be part of the procession, he said.

EDITORIAL

Nations are born in the hearts of poets, they prosper and die in the hands of politicians

Muhammad Iqbal

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

BISHAN SINGH BEDI'S LEGACY IN CRICKET AND BEYOND

IN his book *On Cricket*, former England captain Mike Brearley delivers what is arguably the most succinct summation of Bishan Singh Bedi as a bowler: "The first epithet that comes to mind for Bishan Singh Bedi's bowling is 'beautiful'. More than with any other slow bowler, that is the word that stays." Bedi the man, though, cannot be summed up in a few words, not in any way that would do justice to his character. Brave, outspoken and never afraid to tread what he thought was the right path, the former Indian captain, who passed away at 77 on Monday, will always be remembered as one of the most legendary characters to grace the game. If Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi gave the India team an identity, then Bedi gave it a character that has stayed to this day. And spin has remained a weapon of choice.

Urban legends credit Bedi's time spent playing marbles as a kid in Amritsar with the pin-point accuracy he was to develop as a bowler. He was playing first class cricket at fifteen and the India debut came five years later. His bursting onto the international stage came right when cricket was beginning to take off in the country. Bedi slotted straight into what became India's legendary spin quartet in the 1960s and 1970s. His left-arm spin, alongside Erapalli Prasanna and Srinivas Venkataraghavan's off-spin and B S Chandrasekhar's leg-spin, gave India the deadliest spin attack in the world. Between them, the four bowlers finished with 853 Test wickets, Bedi accounting for 266 of them. He was dominant on overseas pitches too. As captain, his most memorable moment came in 1976 when India beat the mighty West Indies in Port of Spain chasing down 406.

His steadfast nature meant that he always stood his ground—this meant that he had his share of controversies too. From accusing England of using Vaseline to polish the ball in 1976 to conceding an ODI to Pakistan with just 23 left to protest Sarfraz Nawaz's repeated bouncers, Bedi took a stand where lesser mortals would have kept quiet. This trait characterised his post-retirement life. Bedi was never afraid to speak his mind: from calling out Muttiah Muralitharan for chucking to stating that no cricket stadium should be named after a politician. It is because of this bravery that, in this era of sportspersons opting to please the powers that be, Bedi will be immensely missed.

POLICY TWEAKS NEEDED FOR AN AGEING KERALA

KERALA has a new challenge at hand—dealing with the growing share of the elderly in its population. It is a challenge that requires the immediate attention of the state's policymakers. While ageing populations is a global trend, Kerala's figures stand in stark contrast to those of the rest of India. A 2021 estimate said people above 60 years of age constituted about 16.5 percent of the state's population and the share is expected to cross 20 percent by 2031. In comparison, the same share in India's population is just about 10 percent. India has one of the youngest populations in an ageing world, but Kerala has one of the oldest populations in the country.

The proportion of the elderly is also indicative of the health of a community. So, Kerala is ageing faster than the rest of India mainly due to its declining fertility rate and increasing life expectancy as a result of its social welfare and healthcare policies. While Kerala's demographic transformation points to it being a developed society, there is a flipside that is hard to ignore. With an ageing population, Kerala may not be able to fully partake of the demographic dividend the country is reaping from its large working-age population. With an increasing number of people heading abroad for higher studies and jobs, Kerala faces the threat of turning into a huge old-age home, left to fend for itself with meagre resources and inadequate policies.

The ageing population also means Kerala has to spend a significant portion of its budget on pensions. As much as 21 percent of the state's committed expenditure goes towards pensions. Finance minister K N Balagopal had flagged the concern, saying Kerala may become the state with the highest dependency ratio. There have been inevitable sociological changes too. Assisted living has emerged as a new growth sector, as evidenced by the mushrooming of old age homes and demand for such facilities across the state. These changes must be addressed through adequate policies so that the elderly are not seen as a burden. The finance minister had promised steps to "scientifically study this unique situation and enable policy formulation foreseeing the future". But we are yet to hear anything further in this regard. What Kerala needs are changes in practices and policies to address both the entitlements of the elderly—including independence, care and dignity—and the economic and sociological impact of the ageing population.

QUICK TAKE

PROVIDE RELIEF IN MANIPUR

THE Manipur human rights commission has asked the state government to provide essential medicines to the tens of thousands of people living in relief camps. The state had said in July that there were more than 54,000 people living in 354 camps. The new report says there are still 67,000 displaced, including those who have sought refuge in neighbouring states. The ban on high-speed mobile internet that the chief minister had promised to lift earlier this month has been extended a number of times. The need of the hour is to lift the ban, provide for those displaced and plan for their return home.

Nawaz Sharif's return after four years of exile marks a turning point for the troubled nation. It starts a new political shadow play in which the army plays puppeteer

PROJECT NAWAZ COULD BE PAKISTAN'S PATH TO REDEMPTION

NEENA GOPAL

Foreign policy analyst

SOURAV ROY

THE Pakistan Muslim League bussed in a huge crowd from its strongholds across Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for last Saturday's rally at Lahore's Minar-e-Pakistan perhaps to send out the message that jailed archrival Imran Khan was no more than an empty threat. Orchestrated or real, the massive show of strength that marked the October 21 homecoming of Mian Nawaz Sharif cannot but go down in history as a turning point in the annals of the increasingly troubled nation. The return ended the three-time former Pakistan prime minister's four-year self-imposed exile. It paves the way for Nawaz's possible re-election as prime minister, if and when courts overturn his disqualification from holding office and extend bail to prevent jail time.

The Pakistan army's 'Project Nawaz'—which Imran, indicted Monday for violating the Official Secrets Act, has long called 'Project London'—finally comes to fruition after months of protracted negotiations in Washington, London and Dubai. Given Nawaz's emotional connect with his followers, will the return translate into a true political comeback?

For sceptics, there's a sense of *déjà vu*. The homecoming is yet another political merry-go-round which sees the military locking up one favourite as he falls from grace and freeing another to bend to their will, using corruption charges and the threat of jail as a stick to ensure compliance.

But those who diss the elder Sharif for making a backroom deal with the army while in exile cannot ignore his anti-establishment streak—his track record of challenging the military's writ not once but thrice. He was first removed from office in 1999 despite being hand-picked to supplant the Pakistan People's Party's Bhuttos. Will his electrifying return see him take a fourth shy at prime ministership and would he be given a free hand this time to run the nuclear-armed country?

One of the factors behind this dramatic break from the past could be the unprecedented level of trust between 'Big brother' Nawaz and the new army chief, General Syed Asim Munir, who owes his post to the Sharifs. Munir was appointed army chief a day after he was set to retire from office. Imran had axed the general when, as the Inter-Services Intelligence chief, Munir had brought the then prime minister's attention to his wife Bushra Bibi's illegal sale of state gifts in the infamous Toshakhana case.

Nawaz and his hand-picked army chief have made no bones about the grudge they bear towards Munir's predecessor, the former army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa. Alongside ISI chief Lieutenant General Faiz Hameed, Bajwa orchestrated 'outsider' Imran's rise, Nawaz's ouster in 2017, and the dismissal of Munir as ISI chief in February 2022.

Imran, on the other hand, has milked his incarceration to the hilt. Surveys pitch his support at 60 percent, heightening his ability to influence the elections if they are held in late December or early January. The public blames the government of Shahbaz Sharif, which procured a much-needed loan from the International Monetary Fund, for the runaway 31 percent inflation, not Imran's mishandling. Nawaz's enduring popularity in the traditional strongholds of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will be tested.

That Nawaz hasn't completely shed his antipathy towards the military establishment may be a saving grace. He didn't name the army, but blamed the jail authorities, for preventing him from speaking to his beloved wife Kulsoom as she lay on her deathbed and for not allowing him to conduct her last rites.

Insiders say Nawaz, who is pushing 73 and is not in the pink of health, has primarily returned not to take on Bajwa, Faiz or the pro-Imran upper rungs of the military who set off the insurrection on May 9. That job is being left to the army chief, who has not only sidelined top generals who are pro-Bajwa, but Bajwa's extended family who are real estate tycoons.

Taking on the mantle of prime minister could require protracted court hearings to overturn the judgement barring Nawaz from office and clearing the corruption charges. So insiders say Nawaz will lead the poll campaign but focus on creating a legacy, boosting daughter Maryam Nawaz who serves as the party's vice president but doesn't enjoy the loyalty the father evokes among the party faithful. Nawaz must win back loyalists such as former premier Shahid Khaqan Abbasi—who is uncomfortable playing second fiddle to the Sharif progeny—or he would be staring at a split down the middle.

The ties with allies under the umbrella of the Pakistan Democratic Movement are also frayed. Former president and PPP leader Asif Ali Zardari has reached out to PML-Nawaz malcontents, breakaway factions of Imran's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, Maulana Fazlur Rehman of the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (Fazl), and the Balochistan Awami Party. Asif is pushing for a bigger role for his son, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, and has broken from the compact that Nawaz and Bilawal's slain mother Benazir Bhutto arrived at before they returned from self exile in 2007.

Insiders warn that Imran, who is being treated well in jail, could still be a card the army could play if Nawaz stays true to his style and throws a spanner in the works. For now, and unlike when his *bête noire* Pervez Musharraf upset his India peace plan, Nawaz has the promise of a free hand in developing economic ties with India as he navigates the debt trap with China.

Taking no chances on Project Nawaz veering from the playbook, Munir reportedly dispatched ISI chief Lieutenant General Nadeem Anjum to Dubai for a quick discussion to ensure Nawaz's anti-establishment rhetoric is toned down. A similar advice was proffered by Saudi Arabia and the UAE. They back the military-civilian establishment in entrusting Pakistan to Nawaz's hands as they build Islamabad back into a bulwark against Shia Iran, which is seen as a major driver in the Israel-Hamas conflict that threatens to engulf the region. Project Nawaz is the ultimate balancing act.

(neenagopal@gmail.com)

LEADERS MUST LEARN TO LEAD FROM THE BACK

R GOPALAKRISHNAN

Author and business commentator. His fifty-year professional career was spent in Hindustan Unilever and Tata Group

BUILDING BUSINESSES

I have long been curious to learn why many executives struggle hard, work diligently to rise, and, once they reach the pinnacle, falter. Arrogance can be one reason. Another reason can be that they lose touch with the realities of the ground situation.

Why do the talented or top leaders tend to lose touch with reality? There are many possible reasons and all of them are plausible. Upcoming leaders tend to become bound by office routines and meetings. They are likely to be surrounded by people who wish to please them and whisper good things about them. This inadvertently creates a bubble chamber in which leaders end up residing in. Since they constantly receive positive signals about their leadership, they may become self-obsessed and then selectively listen to positive news and inadvertently screen out criticism.

In other words, the very strength that catapulted them to the top becomes a weakness once they are at the top. Being aware that a top position can cause any great leader to lose touch with ground realities is an important leadership learning. Leaders are too often portrayed in writings and movies as those who are forceful demagogues who 'lead from the front'.

I came across a new book authored by my former Tata colleague, Ravi Kant, who retired as the Vice Chairman and CEO of Tata Motors after successfully leading the company through rather turbulent times. I have known Ravi since our college days and he has always struck me as a low-profile, quiet achiever, quite a contrarian to the loud, flashy leadership style of those who get featured on magazine covers. Yet he was regarded as an effective leader throughout his career in Hawkins, Titan, Lohia Machinery and Tata Motors. In line with his personality, the book he co-authored is titled *Leading from the Back to Achieve the Impossible* (Penguin India, 2023). This article is not about Ravi or his book but what he writes about how leaders can keep their feet on the ground and their head in the air. I refer to his book principally because he has based the book on real experiences, not on fluffy theories or inspirational oratory.

The book sets out the principles of quiet leadership or leading from the back through the story of a bright leader, Shiv Kundra. Through great accomplishments and encomiums from his company leaders, he rises right to the top. Suddenly he falters. Why? He cannot let go. He micromanages his colleagues to the point of utterly frustrating them. The directors of the company are bewildered. On the one hand, they value Shiv Kundra as an accomplished leader, and on the other hand, he becomes an enemy of his own career. Hence, they encourage him to reflect by making him explore three questions. First, how should I be? Second, how should I deal with the team? Third, how should I deal with the task? The second question is of direct relevance to the subject of this column. Ravi Kant argues that you stay grounded through relations with people—by trusting them, collaborating with them, and leveraging their strengths.

EXPRESS

Lal Bahadur Shastri went incognito to a farmer's house in Anand and discussed milk economics with him. He was gauging the ground realities of Verghese Kurien's Operation Flood. He then supported the project and India went from being a milk-deficit nation to a milk-surplus one

That sounds pretty straightforward, but how can an upcoming leader practice these when the pressures of change, work schedules and stiff targets make leadership life peripatetic and stressful? The book tells the reader a few things, but I can recall an old Korean proverb, "You must slow down precisely when you have to reach faster."

Ever since I joined Hindustan Lever as a young trainee, I observed that the CEO would earmark eight to ten days every year for what used to be euphemistically called 'field visit day'. On those days, the CEO would visit the market or the factory to interact, in my words, "with the least powerful people in the organisation": distributors, salesmen, factory workers and supervisors, for example. And that day would be spent without any of the intervening layers present. In that way, the CEO would stumble upon ground realities through the 'truth-telling' of frontline employees and associates. In the later part of my own career, I practiced the same approach. I found it to be a super-effective way of staying grounded.

As you can see, this is no rocket science but the essence of simplicity. To recall Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes's words, "For the simplicity on this side of complexity, I wouldn't give you a fig. But for the simplicity on the other side of complexity, for that I would give you anything that I have." And India's simplest prime minister since independence demonstrated this virtue.

In the early 1960s, Lal Bahadur Shastri was told a lot about Verghese Kurien's promising Operation Flood. He decided to visit Anand and see for himself but demanded that he would do so incognito. This simple request became very complex for the protocol department, security department and concerned ministries. Somehow, they solved the relevant problems and the prime minister stayed overnight in an unsuspecting farmer's house, discussing animal husbandry and milk economics. Imagine the farmer's shock when he later found out who his visitor was.

This field visit enabled undiluted government support for the Amul programme. After over fifty years, India can be proud that a milk-deficit nation has become a milk-surplus nation—thanks to grounded leadership and leading from the back on an important national priority.

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MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Compare data

Ref: *What ails the biggest health cover?* (Oct 23). The difficulties in ensuring that the worthy recipients of AB-PMJAY receive it are masterfully described by Bibek Debroy. To prevent overlap, a reliable system that compares data from the SECC database with that from the centre and states must be created. The definition of family also needs to be clarified.
Jenifer J, Chennai

Selfless service

Ref: *When a scholar let his books go* (Oct 23). In her own inimitable style, Renuka Narayanan distinguishes between bookish knowledge and practical wisdom, the latter being the need of the day. Bookish knowledge fails protagonist Hari Narayan when he is drowning, but the cultivator who knows how to swim saves the arrogant scholar. Serving others without expecting anything should become everyone's motto.
D S Gururaj, Bengaluru

Inner war

Ref: *When a scholar let his books go* (Oct 23). It was special to read Renuka Narayanan's article on a festival day. There is an ongoing war in the Middle East, but the real war is people fighting their incapabilities and weaknesses in everyday life. Hopefully this article helps many practice *dharma*.
Raghavendra Reddy, email

Edex impact

The *Edex* page (Oct 23) was very informative and helpful. I am sure that it would have helped MBA aspirants make the right choice for their future. Kudos to the *New Indian Express*.
Alen, Kasargod

Root out

Ref: *SL human trafficking: NIA arrests key suspect* (Oct 23). The National Investigation Agency's arrest of a key suspect in the Sri Lankan human trafficking case is a win against exploitation. It is important to bring traffickers to justice and address the root causes of this heinous crime.
Gummalla Sasirekha, Tanuku

Revamp scheme

Ref: *LSGD representatives accused of taking wages without doing work* (Oct 23). Initially a novel scheme to provide employment in rural areas, the MGNREGA scheme has been misused by authorities tasked with implementation. Local self government department members are falsely registering their names to receive wages. Another issue with the scheme is that the work is not monitored by a competent authority. It is time to revamp MGNREGA.
Asokakumar, Thrikkunnapuzha

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POSTS OF THE DAY

Anurag Thakur @ianuragthakur
By killing Ravana every year, the message given is that no matter how big the evil is, it cannot last long in front of good.

Digvijaya Singh @digvijaya_28
Ravana had ten faces in Treta Yuga. The number of Kauravas in Mahabharata was hundred. In this Kalyug, Ravana is present in thousands of faces and tongues.

D Raja @ComradeDRaja
Marxists have always respected India's diversity while working for unity. RSS is an organisation solely aimed at creating & promoting strife in society.

PM calls for rooting out casteism, regionalism

In his Dussehra speech, Modi says every evil that disturbs the social harmony and development should be destroyed

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, along with BJP leaders, during the Dussehra celebrations in New Delhi on Tuesday | SHEKHAR YADAV

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday called upon citizens to end distortions such as casteism and regionalism that are disturbing harmony in the society. In his Dussehra speech, the PM said the festival should also mark the burning of ideologies that are not about India's development.

After burning an effigy of Ravana, the PM said, "We have to create an India of Lord Ram's ideas. A developed India, which is self-reliant. A developed India, which gives the message of world peace, where everyone has equal right to fulfill their dreams and where people feel prosperity and satisfaction."

"We should pledge to end social ills and discrimination," he said, adding that every evil that disturbs the social harmony should be burnt as well.

Talking about the Ram temple being built at Ayodhya, the PM said, "Today, we are fortunate that we are able to see the grandest temple of Lord Rama being built. Bhagwan Shri Ram bas aane hi wale hain (Lord Ram's arrival is imminent)," he said, asserting that prayers at the temple during the next Ramnavami will spread happiness in the entire world. The temple will be completed in a few months and it marks the victory of people's patience, he said.

The Prime Minister noted that the building of Ram temple is happening amid many auspicious developments and cited India's successful lunar mission, inauguration of new Parliament building and the enactment of women's reservation law. "We know 'maryada' of Lord Ram as well as also how to defend our borders," the Prime Minister said.

Referring to the tradition of 'shashtra puja' (worshiping of weapons), the PM said shastra puja is in practice in India not to dominate or grab the land of others, but to protect its own land.

Modi also asked people to take 10 pledges, including helping at least one poor family to raise its socio-economic status.

The country will become a developed nation when everyone is developed, he said. "As long as there is even a single poor person in the country who does not have basic facilities, we will not rest," he said.

The other causes he mentioned included saving water, digital transactions, cleanliness, vocal for local, quality work, domestic tourism, natural farming, consumption of millets and fitness.

China sacks defence minister 2 months after he goes missing

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

CHINA has officially removed **Li Shangfu** as its defence minister, nearly two months after he disappeared from public view.

Chinese President Xi Jinping is reported to have signed an order on Tuesday stripping Li of his position as defence minister and cabinet member after the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress voted to remove him, according to China's state broadcaster China Central Television.

In a similar move in July this year, China had removed its foreign minister Qin Gang after he too went missing. Qin Gang was also formally stripped of his rank as a member of the State Council.

Li became China's defence minister when a new cabinet was named in March. However, he has not been seen in public since August 29.

Reports suggest that Li was taken for questioning in September. A few weeks before Li's disappearance, President Xi, in a meeting convened for military top brass, had emphasized on political loyalty, discipline and party's absolute leadership over the armed forces.

Li is learnt to be a protégé of General Zhang Youxia, who was Xi's childhood friend and closest ally in the military.

While no reason has been given for his removal, this indicates China's intolerance towards senior leadership if they are seen moving away from what is expected of them. Disappearance of top leaders and officials is not uncommon in China; they are often followed by accusations of criminal conduct, including charges of corruption, months later. The disappearance of two sitting ministers in rapid succession, though, is unusual.

Meanwhile, weeks before former foreign minister Qin Gang went missing, he was not seen attending any state council meetings and he was formally removed on July 25. Qin was hand-picked by Xi as foreign minister in December 2022, 17 months after Qin served as China's ambassador to the United States.

China-Bhutan foreign ministers hold border talks

China's foreign minister Wang Yi held talks with his Bhutanese counterpart Dr Tandi Dorji when the latter arrived in Beijing for China-Bhutan boundary talks. The duo has said that restoration of diplomatic ties will serve the long-term interests of both the countries. Wang Yi has asked Bhutan to resolve the border issue and conclude the talks to transform relations between Bhutan and China from being just neighbours, to a legal form. Wang said China was ready to work with Bhutan in the direction, seize the historic opportunity, complete the important process as soon as possible, and develop China-Bhutan friendly relations in legal form. Bhutan abides by the one-China principle, considering Taiwan and Tibet as part of the country. Bhutan and China do not have diplomatic relations but maintain contact through periodic visits by officials.

BJP dismisses Congress charges on economy, says it is cherry-picking stats

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

THE Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) launched a blistering attack on Congress leader Jairam Ramesh regarding his comments on social media platform X on India's economy, particularly the data on income tax returns spanning from 2013-14 to 2021-22. Taking to social media, Jairam Ramesh asserted that the income growth of the ultra-rich had outpaced that of the middle class.

The ₹5-10 lakh income bracket witnessed growth from 37 lakh tax filers in FY 2022-23. This is noteworthy given that the income tax exemption limit increased from ₹2 lakh to ₹5 lakh in 2023-24

Amit Malviya, BJP's IT in-charge

Challenging Ramesh's assertions, Amit Malviya, the BJP's national IT in-charge and co-in-charge of West Bengal BJP, responded on Tuesday on X, "Jairam, allow me to set the record straight with cold, unadulterated facts — not the cherry-picked statistics you are using to peddle misinformation with your half-baked wisdom, much like your boss."

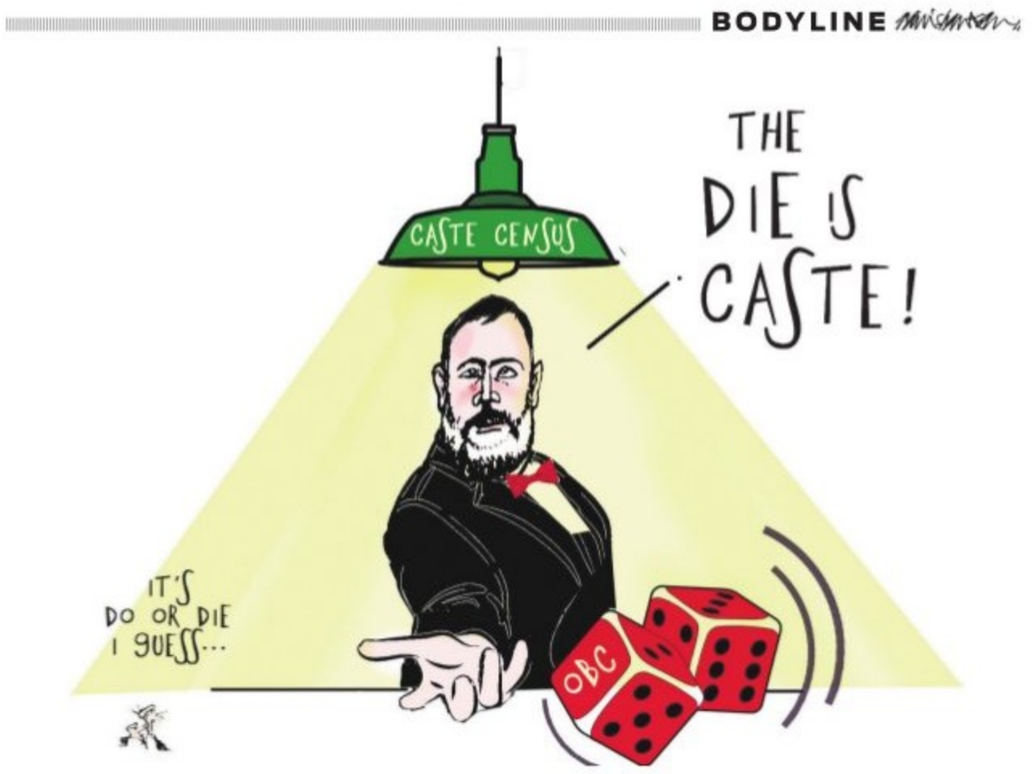
Citing SBI research, Malviya pointed out that the weighted mean income of ₹4.4 lakh in FY 2013-14 had surged by nearly three-fold to ₹13 lakh in FY 2023-24. He emphasized, "Do you even grasp the magnitude of this growth? The average income of all our citizens has increased. But, you wouldn't mention that, would you?" Malviya also criticised the Congress party, highlighting that 13.6 per cent of the population had transitioned from the lower income bracket to higher income levels in 2023 compared to 2012-13. "That is not the 'ultra-rich' who thrived in the crony-capitalist and license-raj era of the Congress since Independence but common people," he added.

Citing findings from a study by Anil Padmanabhan, he stated that the number of taxpayers in each income bracket had surged, attributed to rising incomes. "For instance, the ₹5-10 lakh bracket witnessed growth from 37 lakh tax filers in FY 2022-23, evidently due to increased incomes. This is particularly noteworthy given that the income tax exemption limit increased from ₹2 lakh to ₹5 lakh in 2023-24," he claimed.

Malviya further critiqued Congress leaders' posts, stating that there is a "democratisation of wealth creation" underway, in contrast to the perception created against the government by the Congress. "Quoting data, he also rebuked the Congress Party, saying, "Geography spearheading wealth creation is not restricted to a certain income class or a select group of cities. Many startup and unicorn founders are from the middle class and from different tier-2/3/4 cities."

He also lambasted the Congress by revealing that in 2012, the list of affluent entrepreneurs originated from only 10 cities, which expanded to 76 cities by 2022. Malviya cited the IMF's acknowledgment that various government schemes and initiatives had virtually eradicated 'extreme poverty,' reducing consumption inequality to its lowest point in 40 years.

BODYLINE



Goyal agrees to cut MEP on basmati to $950/tn: Exporters

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

The Union government has agreed to reduce the minimum export price (MEP) of basmati rice to $950 per tonne from the $1,200 per tonne price it had announced in August, claimed exporters after a meeting with Union minister Piyush Goyal.

A reduction is expected to greatly benefit basmati growers, ensuring better prices for their crop. The basmati rice price has risen to ₹3,700 per quintal from ₹3,200 per quintal as exporters in Punjab and Haryana have now started purchasing the grain again. Earlier, they had stopped the purchase due to higher MEP.

Talking to this newspaper, former President of All India Rice Exporters' Association, Vijay Setia, said, "We had a virtual meeting with Union minister Piyush Goyal late last night, in which he has accepted our demand of reducing the MEP. Thus, it will be reduced to $950 per tonne from the present $1,200 per tonne. We would welcome such a move. It will go a long way to improve the income of farmers and all other stakeholders."

"We had already started buying basmati from farmers. Earlier, we had stopped purchasing the grain. The basmati price had plummeted to ₹3,200 per quintal, but it has now started rising and stands between ₹3,600 and ₹3,700 per quintal," said Setia. He added that this assurance of the government will go in the interest of farmers as well as exporters.

"Now we can compete with Pakistan. They got an advantage for a few days due to price restrictions in India, and booked international orders at $950-1,000 as they also grow the same basmati. But now we are back in the market. The average minimum export price for the last three years came to $850. Also, with the $950 basic price, the fly-by-night exporters will vanish from the market," Setia further said.

Exporters to benefit

According to Vijay Setia, former President of All India Rice Exporters' Association, the government nod gives an edge to exporters. "Now we can compete with Pakistan. They got an advantage for a few days due to price restrictions in India, and booked international orders at $950-1,000 as they also grow the same basmati. But we are back."

He said that the Union government had imposed the MEP control order on basmati export at $1,200 per tonne on August 25, while there were many basmati varieties that are exported between $850 and $1,050 per tonne, forcing them to suspend the procurement of basmati from farmers.

Punjab and Haryana are the major basmati rice exporters. In the last financial year, their exports were to the tune ₹33,000 crore, while the total basmati rice shipments from India stood at ₹48,000 crore.

The Centre, on August 25, had imposed a minimum export price of $1,200 per tonne on basmati exports, causing concern among exporters. After repeated requests, Union minister Piyush Goyal on September 25 indicated lowering minimum export price to $850 per tonne. The Department of Food and Public Distribution, under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs and Food and Public Distribution, had issued a fresh circular a few days ago, extending the registration-cum-allocation certificate for basmati rice beyond October 15.

'Very severe cyclone' Hamoon to make landfall in Bangladesh on October 25

JITENDRA CHOUBEY @ New Delhi

CYCLONE Hamoon has significantly intensified in the Bay of Bengal and is expected to make landfall in Bangladesh on October 25. Beginning as a 'deep depression', it has now evolved into a 'very severe cyclone'. The Hamoon's strength is being fuelled by higher sea surface temperatures, which will likely rise as it progresses.

The cyclone's impact is not limited to Bangladesh; it has also disrupted the Northeast monsoon in southern India. The consequences of Hamoon's presence include heavy rainfall in Northeastern states like Nagaland, Manipur, Tripura and Mizoram. Coastal regions of West Bengal, Odisha coast, eastern Bihar and Jharkhand can expect light to moderate rainfall.

Currently, Hamoon is situated over the Northwest Bay of Bengal, moving northeastward at a speed of 17 kmph. As it nears the coast south of Chittagong in Bangladesh, it is expected to weaken somewhat, becoming a 'cyclonic storm' with wind speeds of 80-90 kmph, gusting up to 100 kmph. A storm surge of approximately 1-1.5 metres above the astronomical tide is projected, which may inundate low-lying areas between Khepupara and Chittagong. Nevertheless, Bangladesh is not anticipated to face severe impacts.

Effect on monsoon

Cyclone Hamoon has delayed the onset of the Northeast monsoon by an additional four days, which has significant implications for Tamil Nadu, particularly in terms of winter crops, drinking water and industrial use.

Furthermore, cyclone Hamoon has delayed the onset of the Northeast monsoon by an additional four days, which has significant implications for Tamil Nadu, particularly in terms of winter crops, drinking water and industrial use.

In the Arabian Sea, cyclonic storm 'Tej' has weakened into a deep depression over Yemen, with its speed reducing to 9 km per hour.

According to the IMD forecast, Northwestern Indian states including Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh can expect normal and dry weather conditions over the next seven days. While minimum temperatures will gradually decrease, the region has recently experienced lower temperatures due to a series of western disturbances, marking an early onset of winter.

Rajnath performs Shashtra Puja in Tawang

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

DEFENCE minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday performed Shastra Puja with the troops at Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh and interacted with the troops deployed in the frontline locations along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

"Defence minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday visited the forward posts in Arunachal Pradesh and carried out first-hand on-ground assessment of operational preparedness of the armed forces there," the defence ministry said.

Rajnath Singh expressed gratitude to the unyielding spirit, unwavering commitment and unparalleled courage of the troops who are deployed on the borders in tough conditions, and who ensures that the nation and its people are safe.

Tawang town is inhabited by more than 50,000 people. Called the little Tibet by China, it is one of the contentious areas which China claims as its own.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh performs 'Shastra Puja' on 'Vijayadashami' during his visit to forward posts in Arunachal Pradesh in Tawang district on Tuesday | PTI

The defence ninister also visited the Tawang War Memorial where he laid a wreath and offered tributes to the bravehearts who made the supreme sacrifice during the 1962 war. He was accompanied by Chief of the Army Staff General Manoj Pande, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GOC-in-C) Eastern Command Lt Gen RP Kalita; GOC, 4 Corps Lt Gen Manish Erry and other senior officers of the Indian Army. Singh also visited the 4 (Gajraj) Corps Headquarters at Tezpur in Assam. Gajraj Corps handles the counter insurgency role in Assam and is also responsible for defence of the Line of Actual Control with China in Western Arunachal Pradesh.

In view of the current global scenario, Singh asserted that there is no option but to bolster the country's security apparatus, underlining that all efforts are being made by the government to strengthen the nation's military prowess through indigenous production of defence equipment.

Highlighting self reliance in defence, Rajnath Singh said, "Earlier, we used to rely on imports to upgrade our military. But today, a number of major weapons and platforms are being manufactured within the country. Foreign companies are being encouraged to share their technology and produce the equipment in India with domestic industry. In 2014, the value of defence exports was about ₹1,000 crore, but today we are exporting defence equipment worth thousands of crores," he said.

DOWRY CASE

A case has been registered against six persons including the husband and in-laws of a woman, who accused them of harassing her for ₹2 cr dowry, Thane Police said. A case has been registered under relevant sections of the IPC

4k BOTTLES OF ILLEGALLY STORED COUGH SYRUPS SEIZED

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	42	27	Mumbai	35	29
Bhopal	43	28	Panaji	32	28
Jaipur	41	30	Patna	41	27
Amritsar	40	23	Lucknow	42	27
Chennai	39	30	Port Blair	34	28
Kolkata	36	26	Imphal	23	18
Srinagar	18	08	Chandigarh	42	23

■ Protests follow Congress lists in several parts of poll-bound MP ■ Saffron party complains to poll officer on murders of its leaders

Congress likely to change candidates in 4 MP seats

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bhopal

THERE was an element of unpredictability when the Congress released its lists of candidates on October 15 and 19 for Madhya Pradesh. The party left out only one nomination for the Amla-SC seat. The party's predicament was centred on the resignation of woman deputy collector **Nisha Bangre** from her job.

The state government until Monday night delayed accepting her resignation, prompting the Congress to announce Manoj Malve's candidature as a "replacement" for Bangre.

It is now believed that Congress would change its candidates on at least four seats, including from the Amla-SC seat in Betul district.

The state government (which was asked recently by the MP High Court to decide on Bangre's resignation by October 23), finally accepted her resignation from government service, eventually paving the passage for her to contest the November 17 assembly polls from Amla-SC.

The Congress, to be on the safer side, named the 2018 polls runner-up Manoj Malve from the Amla-SC seat, a few hours before the state government finally accepted her resignation on Monday night. With it the party named candidates for all 230 seats.

Posted as deputy collector in Chhatarpur district, Bangre quit her government job, allegedly over denial of leave by the government for attending her housewarming and an all-religion meeting in Betul's Amla area.

Though she had made it clear that the leave application or the housewarming/all-religion event had nothing to do with her poll ambition, political circles were abuzz about Bangre doing all that to further her poll prospects (without quitting her government job, she couldn't have contested the polls).

After a delay in accepting her June resignation, she carried out a protest march along with Congress leaders to meet CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan last month. She was involved in a scuffle with the cops on the way to the CM's residence, booked under Section 151 IPC and was in judicial custody.

DECIDE

Jyotiraditya Scindia aide booked

The opposition Congress has demanded removal of a Jyotiraditya Scindia-loyalist, Madhya Pradesh minister Govind Singh Rajput, from the state cabinet and ban on him from contesting the November 17 polls, in the wake of a case of poll code violation being lodged against him on Monday. The complaint filed against Rajput was related to a viral video in where he announced ₹25 lakh to BJP heads of those booths, where Congress would secure low votes.

'Political killings' in C'garh: BJP demands DGP removal

RECENT KILLINGS

- **Feb 5:** Mandal chief Neelkanth Kakkam shot in Bijapur
- **Feb 10:** District leader Sagar Sahu gunned down
- **Feb11:** Party activist Ramdhar Alami killed
- **March 29:** Deputy sarpanch Ramji Dodi hacked in Narayanpur
- **June 21:** ST Morcha district chief Kaka Arjun killed in Bijapur
- **Aug 21:** Mahesh Gota kidnapped in Bijapur
- **Oct 14:** Chandrashekhar Giri killed in Dhamtari
- **Oct 20:** Birjhu Taram shot in Mohala-Manpur.

EJAZ KAISER @ Raipur

SENIOR BJP leaders have expressed deep concern with the Chhattisgarh chief electoral officer over the alleged targeted killing of their leaders with no preventive measures taken in the state.

The party has sought the removal of senior officers, including the home secretary and the DGP.

In a complaint, the BJP demanded an immediate probe into the murder of tribal party leader Birjhu Taram in Mohala-Manpur.

He was killed by suspected Maoists, about 120 km from state capital Raipur on October 20. The party has also demanded the deployment of Central Armed Police Forces in the hypersensitive areas to ensure free, fair and peaceful polls.

The BJP doesn't wish to lose steam in the ongoing campaign for the upcoming polls amid the threat in an edgy Bastar zone and other areas affected by left-wing extremism.

According to the BJP leaders, Taram's family had earlier conveyed the threat faced in his area, but the administration neither undertook any security measures nor any preventive measures, the family said.

"It's a planned murder. It is also a political conspiracy to secure power. The state government led by Congress failed to check the target killings of BJP office-bearers in an attempt to terrify our party leaders and cadres. But violence has no place in democracy and we will fight for justice," said **Arun Sao**, state BJP president.

"The state government had accepted 35 such killings of political workers in Chhattisgarh, but took no action against the accused," alleged Sunil Soni, Raipur Lok Sabha MP who led a party delegation to the chief electoral officer.

During the last seven months, the Maoists have attacked as many as seven local BJP leaders, killing six of them.

The party also suspects that one of its leaders, Chandrashekhar Giri, in Dhamtari district was murdered. However, the initial probe revealed that he was allegedly killed by his brothers in a property dispute.

RANCHI DIARY

MUKESH RANJAN
Our correspondent in Jharkhand
mukesh.r@newindianexpress.com

New app for digital education to govt school

The Jharkhand Government has launched 'J-Guruji App' (Guruji of Jharkhand) developed by the School Education and Literacy Department. The app has been designed in such a way that students will be provided everything — from books to test series and answers to questions — in one click. With this app, children studying in government schools in Jharkhand will be able to get online education. It is said to be a versatile platform that blends web and mobile applications to strengthen learning ecosystem. To avail this facility, students will be given 'student ID' to login. They can attend online classes whenever they want.

Ranchi to host Hockey Olympic qualifiers

Jharkhand's capital Ranchi will host the Women's FIH Hockey Olympic Qualifiers between January 13 and 19, 2024, the second international event in the city in two months. The International Hockey Federation (FIH) shifted the venue of the qualifiers from Changzhou (China) and awarded it to India after the Chinese women's hockey team won the Asian Games and earned a direct entry to Olympics. Besides India, women's hockey teams from seven more nations will participate in the Olympic qualifiers, to be played at the Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh Astroturf Stadium in Ranchi.

Allowance to wife must not become a burden: HC

The Jharkhand High Court observed that, "It is the moral obligation of the husband to provide maintenance to his wife, ensuring she maintains a lifestyle similar to that of her matrimonial home, but this does not justify burdening the man to the extent that marriage becomes a punishment to him. The court made the observation while hearing a petition in a matrimonial dispute filed by a Dhanbad resident, who prayed for revision of the maintenance amount awarded to his wife. The court of Justice Subhash Chand further observed that it is moral duty of the husband to pay maintenance to his wife but it does not mean she can burden him.

WINTER BREAK

Chardham portals to close next month

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun

DATES for the closure of the Chardham temples portal during the winter season have been announced. "The portals of Badrinath Dham will be closed for devotees for the winter season on November 18, while the portals of the world-famous Yamunotri shrine will be closed on November 15," Badri Kedar Temple Committee president Ajendra Ajay told this newspaper.

"The date and muhurat of the closing of the portals of the Yamunotri and Badrinath shrines have been fixed on the auspicious occasion of Dussehra," Yogendra Singh, chief executive officer of the Badri Kedar Temple Committee, told this newspaper. According to a meeting of the Purohit Samaj at the temple complex in Kharshali village on Tuesday, the time to close the portals was fixed.

According to the temple committee, "The portals of Yamunotri Dham will be closed for six months on Wednesday, November 15 at 11.57 am after special worship in Abhijeet Muhurat (Makar Lagna) on the auspicious occasion of Bhai Dooj." Suresh Uniyal, Rajswaroop Uniyal, and Pankaj Uniyal, among others were present.

J&K to provide land at cheaper rates to Pandit employees in Srinagar

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

AFTER allotting the 5 marlas land to landless people in Jammu and Kashmir under PMAY-G scheme, the Lt Governor Manoj Sinha's administration has decided to provide land at cheaper rates to Kashmiri Pandit employees in Srinagar in a move to facilitate their return and rehabilitation to the Valley.

Sinha announced that the government would make necessary arrangements to provide land at low or subsidised rate to government employees in Srinagar to build their own houses.

This he said while addressing a gathering of migrant Kashmiri Pandits at the under-construction temple of Bhaderkali at Devi Angan Thalwal, Jammu on Ram Navmi.

"We are trying to make such a situation so that you can permanently live in Kashmir," Lt Governor told the Pandits.

He said a nodal officer has been appointed in LG Secretariat to address all the issues and concerns of Kashmiri Pandit community. "The members of the community can also take up issues with the Divisional Commissioner, ADGP, IGP and concerned Deputy Commissioner and their matter will be taken up on priority".

The Lt Governor directed Commissioner Relief and Rehabilitation KK Sidha for regular allotment of completed transit accommodations to Pandit employees in the valley.

The government is setting up transit accommodations at many places in central, south and north Kashmir to accommodate the migrant Pandit employees.

After the outbreak of militancy in J&K in 1990, the Kashmiri Pandits migrated enmasse from the Valley and settled in Jammu, New Delhi and other parts of the country.

In order to facilitate the return of Kashmiri Pandits to the Valley, the central government under the PM's job package created 6,000 jobs for the Pandits in the Valley.

Return to the Valley

After the outbreak of militancy in J&K in 1990, the Kashmiri Pandits migrated en masse from the Valley and settled in Jammu, New Delhi and other parts of the country. In order to facilitate the return of Kashmiri Pandits to the Valley, the centre under the PM's job package created 6,000 jobs for the Pandits in the Valley

Farmers suffered in past, Modi govt improved their lot: Shah

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA @ Ahmedabad

UNION Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Amit Shah, strongly criticised previous administrations, asserting that they had severely mistreated Indian farmers. Speaking at the inauguration of India's first IFFCO Nano DAP (liquid) manufacturing unit in Kalol, Gujarat, Amit Shah highlighted the stark differences between the agriculture budgets of prior governments and the current Modi government.

Shah emphasised the substantial increase in support for farmers under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, stating, "Before Prime Minister Modi assumed office in 2014, the budget for farmers was a mere Rs 22,000 crore, whereas the Modi government's budget for 2022-23 stands at Rs 1,22,000 crore." This reflects a remarkable increase of one lakh crore rupees, demonstrating the government's unwavering commitment to farmers' welfare.

He also underlined the government's extensive support for agricultural loans, comparing the mesahseven lakh crore rupees in 2013-14 to the substantial 19 lakh crore rupees provided by the Modi government in 2023-24.

Amit Shah performing a ceremony in Kalol, Gujarat | EXPRESS

Amit Shah did not stop there; he shed light on the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for agricultural products, stating, "Under previous governments, the MSP for rice was a mere Rs 1310, but the Modi government raised it to Rs 2203, marking a significant 68% increase. Similarly, the MSP for wheat was Rs 1,400, which has now been increased to Rs 2275, and pearl millet (Bajra) saw an increase from Rs 1250 to 2500 rupees, a whopping 100% rise."

Shah also commended the government's responsiveness during the pandemic, noting that they did not burden farmers with additional expenses when global fertilizer prices surged. He explained, "In 2013-14, the fertilizer subsidy amounted to 73,000 crores, but this will increase to 2,55,000 crore rupees in 2022-23."

Apart from this event, Amit Shah participated in several other programs, including laying the foundation stone for a sports complex in Gandhinagar and initiating various development projects in Sanand. On a different occasion, he also joined the 'Raas Garba' celebrations in Ahmedabad, as devotees celebrated Navratri by worshiping Goddess Durga.

Uddhav: Conspiracy to separate Mumbai from Maha

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

IN a passionate address at the annual Dussehra rally on Tuesday, Uddhav Thackeray voiced concerns about what he saw as a concerted effort to separate Mumbai from Maharashtra. He alleged that Mumbai's development rights were being ceded to Niti Ayog, suggesting a larger conspiracy at play. Thackeray, former CM of Maharashtra, made several striking points in his speech.

Thackeray firmly asserted that the BJP-led central government was attempting to diminish Mumbai's significance by relocating key government offices to Gujarat and Delhi. He questioned the logic behind moving important administrative functions away from Mumbai, which is the financial capital of India, and pledged not to let Mumbai be severed from Maharashtra.

He also criticised the contrasting approaches of the central government, highlighting that while PM Narendra Modi criticised the opposition for considering the name 'INDIA' for their joint front, he welcomed Pakistani cricketers with open arms at the Narendra Modi Cricket Stadium, showering them with flowers, and even participating in traditional Gujarati dance and offering them local snacks.

Supporters at Shiv Sena (UBT) Dussehra rally at Shivaji Park, in Mumbai | PTI

Thackeray questioned the BJP's double standards, considering the ongoing tensions between India and Pakistan, particularly in J&K and Mumbai.

Drawing a parallel between Narendra Modi and Hitler, Thackeray emphasised that Hitler was once immensely popular in Germany, but history later distanced itself from him and his actions. He suggested that power should not be allowed to undermine the principles of democracy and the Indian Constitution.

Touching upon local issues, Thackeray responded to Rahul Gandhi's criticism of industrialist Gautam Adani's involvement in the Dharavi redevelopment project. He advocated for ensuring that residents of Dharavi receive a minimum of 500 square feet of housing in the redevelopment, vowing to protect their rights. Thackeray assured his personal involvement in the Dharavi project discussions.

He expressed skepticism about the high-speed Bullet train project, questioning its necessity and purpose.

He argued that Mumbai's importance should not be diluted by such ventures, taking a dig at those who fled to Surat, dubbing them as 'traitors' and alluding to the genesis of the Bullet train project.

Shinde: Mumbai will not be separated from Maha

Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde, addressing the annual Shiv Sena dussehra rally, said Mumbai will never separate from Maharashtra; in fact, they are working to make Mumbai as an international city. He said no one can separate Mumbai from Maharashtra and that a slew of development projects have been undertaken that will make Mumbai an international city. He alleged Thackeray indulged in graft in BMC when Shiv Sena was in power and he is afraid of probe.

No prohibition, yet alcohol & drugs are out in these villages of Uttarakhand

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun

IN a society where the prevalence of alcohol and drug addiction is constantly increasing, two villages of Dehradun have not only kept their village drug-free by maintaining a mythological tradition, but it has also been strictly followed so that no outsider can enter that village in an inebriated state.

Shamsher Singh Tomar, former head of Kalsi, told this newspaper, "People of Kota Dimau, Gadol and Bohri villages in Tehsil Kalsi area, located 44 km from Dehradun under the district headquarters, do not touch alcohol or other drugs.

There is no restriction behind this, but there is a religious belief — the deity of all three villages is Lord Parshuram Maharaj, and if the rules of alcohol are violated by the villagers, they will have to face "serious consequences of the wrath of the Almighty" in the future.

Jawahar Singh Chauhan, president of Parshuram Maharaj Temple Kota Dimau Committee, told this newspaper, "The population of the village is about three thousand, and it is not even acceptable to consume alcohol here and keep liquor in the house.

"When a marriage procession reaches Kota Dimau and, they are first greeted with a warning by the village elders that no one will bring liquor to the village limits," Chauhan said. Interestingly, liquor vends are not allowed to open far and wide in the village, nor does the government take the initiative. Though there are some inputs in the surrounding village regarding the manufacture of illicit liquor, the government has not taken any step in this direction so far. "If any such incident comes to our notice, definitely concrete action will be taken," state Excise Commissioner Harishchandra Semwal told this newspaper.

Sonu Chauhan, a local resident, told this newspaper, "Lord Parshuram is our 'Ishta dev'. In my life, I have never had alcohol or have any desire to. Many people from outside also come here to take a pledge to get rid of drugs."

Baru Singh Tomar, a resident of Kalsi, told this newspaper, "The restrictions adopted by the villagers regarding prohibition have also diluted the strict laws of the government". According to the belief, "where Lord Parshuram resides, intoxication is completely prohibited". The locals not only take drugs, people from outside also come to the temple and hear the glory of Lord Parshuram and get rid of the addiction.

Religious belief

Shamsher Singh Tomar, former head of Kalsi, said that there is no restriction behind keeping away from alcohol, but there is a religious belief. The deity of all three villages is Lord Parshuram Maharaj, and if the rules of alcohol are violated by the villagers, they will have to face "serious consequences of the wrath of the Almighty".

TWO

cargo ships collided off the coast of Germany on Tuesday. At least 1 sailor is dead and 4 are missing

GLOBAL WEATHER

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	23	9	SNY	Los Angeles	31	17	LC
Colombo	29	24	LC	Melbourne	24	9	HR
Dhaka	33	24	SNY	Moscow	6	3	HR
Dubai	35	27	SNY	New York	18	11	LC
Houston	28	19	SNY	Singapore	30	26	SNY
Istanbul	18	13	LR	Toronto	14	12	LC
London	17	14	LC	Washington	19	9	LC

WHO says that a total of 46 out of 72 health care services, including 12 out of 35 hospitals have stopped running

Two-thirds of Gaza's health facilities ceased functioning, warns WHO

RAFAH

NEARLY two-thirds of Gaza's health facilities have ceased functioning amid a massive and deadly increase in Israeli airstrikes in the territory, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Tuesday.

A total of 46 out of 72 health care facilities, including 12 out of 35 hospitals, have stopped functioning across Gaza, the WHO said.

Palestinian health officials said that the lack of electricity and fuel to power generators from an Israeli blockade, as well as damage from airstrikes, has forced many of the facilities to close.

The WHO also said it had been unable to distribute any life-saving health supplies from the truck convoys to major hospitals in northern Gaza, because of a lack of security guarantees.

Also, the United Nations on Tuesday called for improved coordination among humanitarian groups in making sure the small amount of aid now moving into the Gaza Strip contained only the most needed items.

UNRWA, the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, said that some of the food delivered into Gaza so far, such as rice and lentils, had been impractical, given the dwindling availability of fresh water and fuel.

"An additional challenge in a very limited flow of supplies is that we are not really receiving the most needed supplies for Gaza, or the most relevant," UNRWA spokeswoman Tamara Alrifai said. "In one of the shipments over the last couple of days, we received boxes of rice and lentils," she told journalists. "But for people to cook lentils and rice, they need water and gas. And therefore these kinds of supplies—while very generous and well intended—are not very usable right now," she said.

Alrifai added that before October 7, around 500 trucks a day were entering Gaza from Israel and Egypt, with a mixture of commercial goods, food, aid and fuel. But only a few dozen trucks carrying food, medicine and water have entered Gaza via the southern border with Egypt since a deal entered into operation on Saturday.

"We will need to get better as a consortium of humanitarians in sending very explicit lists of what is most needed," Alrifai said. *Agencies*

Wounded Palestinians receive treatment at the al-Shifa hospital, following Israeli airstrikes on Gaza City on Monday | AP

Macron calls for int'l union against Hamas

French President Emmanuel Macron called onTuesday for Gaza militants Hamas to be added to the targets of an international coalition against the Islamic State (IS) group. "We should build a regional and international coalition to battle against terrorist groups that threaten us all," he said.

UNSC deepened crisis in Gaza: Turkish Prez

Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan on Tuesday accused UN Security Council (UNSC) of deepening the Gaza crisis by bowing to the "Israeli regime." "The international community is not rising to the challenge in the face of the Israeli regime's unlawful...attacks against civilians," Erdogan said.

Muslim disunity empowered Israel: Iran

Iran's president on Tuesday expressed regret at a "lack of unity" among Muslim countries in response to war. Ebrahim Raisi said, "A united position in the Muslim world could have prevented the aggression of Zionist regime and excesses of its Western supporters in an effective way."

Israel should not have a free licence to kill: Qatar

DOHA

THE Qatari ruler hit out at Israel's backers on Tuesday, charging they had given it "free licence to kill" in its war with Hamas and questioning what the conflict would achieve.

"We are saying enough is enough," Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani told a meeting of the Shura Council, Qatar's legislative body, according to a translation released by the royal court. "It is untenable for Israel to be given an unconditional green light and free licence to kill, nor is it tenable to continue ignoring the reality of occupation, siege and settlement."

Qatar, a US ally which hosts a large US military base, also hosts an office of Hamas which doubles as the main residence of its self-exiled leader Ismail Haniyeh. The wealthy Gulf monarchy has acted as a communications channel with Hamas and is playing a key role in negotiations to release the hostages, with four freed so far.

"It should not be allowed in our time to use cutting off water and preventing medicine and food as weapons against an entire population," the emir said, referring to Israel's siege of Gaza. "We call for an earnest regional and international stance vis-a-vis this dangerous escalation that we are witnessing, and which threatens the security of the region and the world."

He added, "We would like to ask those who have aligned with the war, and those acting to gag any dissenting opinion: what would come in the aftermath of this war? Would it bring security and stability to Israelis and Palestinians? Where would the Palestinians head for afterwards?"

Major powers, including the US, Britain and France, have rallied to support Israel and affirmed its right to defend itself after this month's deadly attack by the Palestinian Islamist group. *AFP*

Court grants Nawaz Sharif bail in three corruption cases

ISLAMABAD/LAHORE

PAKISTAN'S Punjab provincial government on Tuesday suspended Nawaz Sharif's seven-year sentence in the Al-Azizia case while two separate courts confirmed his bail in three different corruption cases, in a major legal relief to the former premier after his return from London following four years of self-exile.

For the first time since his return on Saturday, the 73-year-old three-time former prime minister and supremo of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) on Tuesday appeared before the Islamabad accountability court. Sharif marked his attendance in Accountability Court of Judge Muhammad Bashir, who had suspended his arrest orders in the Toshakhana case last week to facilitate his return to Pakistan.

The attendance was significant to show he had surrendered before the court. He was allowed to leave after judge witnessed his presence in the courtroom. During the hearing, the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) prosecutor contended that Sharif had surrendered, therefore, his arrest warrants should be cancelled. "If the warrants are cancelled then the trial can move forward," he said. The judge subsequently confirmed Sharif's bail in the case against surety bonds of Rs 1 million. The hearing of case was adjourned till November 20.

The case is based on allegations that Sharif, former president Asif Ali Zardari and ex-prime minister Yusuf Raza Gilani received luxury vehicles and gifts from Toshakhana.

In another major development, the caretaker government of Pakistan's Punjab province on Tuesday suspended Sharif's seven-year sentence in Al-Azizia graft case. Punjab caretaker government led by Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi is considered an extension of Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz government.

Government's decision came at time when Sharif was appearing before Islamabad High Court to seek bail in Al-Azizia case. *PTI*

Pakistan's former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, right in vehicle, waves to his supporters as he leaves after appearing in a court in Islamabad | AP

Went through hell, says freed 85-yr-old woman

JERUSALEM

AN 85-year-old Israeli freed after more than two weeks of captivity by Hamas militants in war-torn Gaza said on Tuesday "I went through hell" during her abduction.

One of two elderly hostages freed late Monday, Yocheved Lifshitz recounted how the militants "went on a rampage in our kibbutz, kidnapped me, lay me over a motorcycle... and sped off with me through the ploughed fields."

They "beat me on the way—they didn't break my ribs but hurt me very much," said Lifshitz, seated in a wheelchair.

Yocheved Lifshitz, one of the two women released from Hamas captivity late Monday, in a wheelchair down the hall at the hospital in Tel Aviv, Israel | AP

She was freed with Nurit Cooper, 79, by Hamas, which cited "compelling humanitarian" reasons. During her weeks of captivity, Lifshitz said, "they treated us well," describing her captors as courteous and saying a doctor visited every two to three days. The guards kept conditions clean, she said. Lifshitz, whose husband remains in Hamas captivity, said the militants appeared to have "prepared for a long time" to take large numbers of hostages. "They had everything that men and women needed including shampoo and hostages were given one meal a day," *AFP*

EXPRESS READ

Spain's acting govt to push for a 37½-hr workweek

Madrid: The parties forming Spain's acting government said on Tuesday that they will push for a 37½-hour workweek as part of an agreement the coalition partners struck as they try to remain in power following an inconclusive election in July. Spain has had a 40-hour workweek for the past two decades. Now, the government wants to move toward a shorter workweek like in neighbouring France, where the workweek is 35 hours. The proposal is for Spain to have a 38½-hour workweek next year and for that to fall to 37½ hours in 2025. Spain's Socialist Party and its junior coalition partner, the leftist Sumar (Joining Forces), have until November 27 to earn the backing of the majority of Spain's Parliament to form a new government. If not, a new national election will be held in January.

ASIA MATTERS

SINGAPORE

PRINCE WILLIAM TO PAY A VISIT FOR EARTHSHOT

Prince William will travel to Singapore next month to name the winners of his Earthshot Prize, a global competition to find solutions to challenges of climate change. William created the prize three years ago to encourage inventors to develop technologies to combat global warming and mitigate its impact on the environment. Singapore was chosen to host the latest annual awards ceremony because of its role as a "hub for innovation" in Southeast Asia, William's office said. Prince will meet with locals to learn how they are working to protect and restore the planet

MALAYSIA

GOVT ALLOWS EXPORT OF RARE EARTHS

Malaysia's government said on Tuesday it will allow Lynas Rare Earth to continue to import and process rare earths until March 2026, after the Australian miner proposed a new technology to extract radioactive elements from waste it produces. Lynas refinery in Malaysia has been operating in central Pahang state since 2012

THAILAND

EX-PM THAKSIN UNDERGOES 2ND SURGERY

Jailed ex-Thai prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra has undergone orthopaedic surgery, prison officials said—his second operation in the space of a few weeks. 74-year-old billionaire, ousted as PM, returned to Thailand from 15 years of self-exile in August and was jailed on old graft and abuse-of-power charges. He was transferred to a police hospital just hours after being jailed, because of his poor health, and last month his daughter said he had an operation. Department of Corrections said he had undergone five hours of orthopaedic surgery

Pilot accused of shutting down a plane midflight

PORTLAND

AN off-duty pilot riding in the extra seat in the cockpit of a Horizon Air passenger jet tried to shut down the engines in midflight and had to be subdued by the crew, a pilot flying the plane told air traffic controllers.

Authorities in Oregon identified the man as Joseph David Emerson, 44. He was being held on Monday on 83 counts each of attempted murder and reckless endangerment and one count of endangering an aircraft, according to the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office.

The airline said in the captain and co-pilot "quickly responded, engine power was not lost and the crew secured the aircraft without incident." Alaska said no weapons were involved. *AP*

US STATES SUE META OVER HARM TO KIDS' MENTAL HEALTH

SAN FRANCISCO

DOZENS of US states are suing Meta Platforms Inc. for harming young people's mental health by knowingly designing features on Instagram and Facebook that addict children to its platforms.

The lawsuit filed in federal court in California also claims that Meta routinely collects data on children under 13 without their parents' consent, in violation of federal law.

"Meta has harnessed powerful and unprecedented technologies to entice, engage, and ultimately ensnare youth and teens. Its motive is profit, and in seeking to maximise its financial gains, Meta has repeatedly misled the public about the substantial dangers of its social media platforms," the complaint says.

In addition to the 33 states, nine attorneys general are filing in their respective states, bringing the total number of states taking action to 42.

"Kids and teenagers are suffering from record levels of poor mental health and social media companies like Meta are to blame," said New York Attorney General Letitia James.

Meta said it shares "the attorneys general's commitment to providing teens with safe, positive experiences online, and have already introduced over 30 tools to support teens and their families." *AP*

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public is hereby notified that, one of my clients intend to purchase the Items of Schedule Property mentioned herein below from Mrs. Noor Taj W/o Late Syed Ayub and her family members who are the absolute owners in possession and enjoyment of the same. The person/s who have right, title, interest or claim of any nature over the aforesaid Schedule Property may forward their claim/s, if any, in writing together with the supported documents to the under mentioned within 07 days from the date of this notification. If no claims or objections are received within the above stipulated period, my client/s shall proceed to purchase the same presuming that there are no claims of any nature from any third parties in respect of the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the vacant property land measuring 02 acres 07 guntas out of 04 acres 07 guntas, in old Sy.No.96, new Sy.No.96/2 of Medimallasandra Village, Anagondanahalli Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bengaluru (R) District and bounded on: East by: Land in Sy.No.96/9; West by: Land in Sy.No.96/8; North by: Land in Sy. Nos.96/10 & 96/11; South by: Land in Sy.No.96/2.

DHARMENDRA ASSOCIATES
ADVOCATES
No.01, Ground Floor, AIT Campus,
1st Main Road, Ananda Nagar

PUBLIC NOTICE

ICICI Bank | **Branch Office:** ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

The following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). A notice was issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 on their last known addresses, however it was not served and hence they are hereby notified by way of this public notice.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset / Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Bhavish Kumar Rana, Monika Rajput, C-11-601 Sentup Vihar Awho, White Field Hosakote Road, Kanna Mangala, Bangalore-560067 A/c:- LBNOD00004900538	Apartment No. 1403, 14th Floor, Tower A, Sethi Venice. Situated at Sc-01/ A-4, Sector-150 Noida-201301	26/09/2023 Rs. 62,11,483.12/-	04/07/2023

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (as applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice else further steps will be taken as per the provisions of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Date : October 25, 2023
Place : Bangalore

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

IDFC FIRST Bank Limited
(erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited) | CIN : L65110TN2014PLC097792
Registered Office: - KRM Towers, 8th Floor, Harrington Road, Chetpet, Chennai- 600031.
Tel : +91 44 4564 4000 | Fax: +91 44 4564 4022

IDFC FIRST Bank

NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13 (2) OF THE SECURITIZATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002

The following borrowers and co-borrowers availed the below mentioned secured loans from **IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited)** The loans of the below-mentioned borrowers and co- borrowers have been secured by the mortgage of their respective properties. As they have failed to adhere to the terms and conditions of the respective loan agreements and had become irregular, their loan were classified as NPA as per the RBI guidelines. Amounts due by them to **IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited)** are mentioned as per respective notices issued more particularly described in the following table and further interest on the said amounts shall also be applicable and the same will be charged as per contractual rate with effect from their respective dates.

Sr No.	Loan Account No.	Type of Loan	Name of borrowers and co-borrowers	Section 13 (2) Notice Date	Outstanding amount as per Section 13 (2) Notice	Property Address
1	29326069	Loan Against Property	1. Bhargav V 2. Ashwathamma Vishwanath	11.10.2023	INR 25,81,611.36/-	All That Piece And Parcel Of The Property Bearing Site No. 139, New Bbmp Katha No.159/,166/1/139/a, Assessment No. 139/166, Situated At 3rd Division, Ward No. 1, Hosabidi, Yalhanka Village, Hosabidi, Yalhanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Banglore, Karnataka-560064, Measuring East To West: 29.6 Ft., North To South: 20 Ft., In All Total: 592 Sq. Ft., And Bounded As: **East : Road, West : Property Of Mr Jayaramappa, North : Property Of Mr. S. Ramamurthy, South : Property Of Mr. B. Vishwanath**

You are hereby called upon to pay the amounts to **IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited)** as per the details shown in the above table with contracted rate of interest thereupon from their respective dates and other costs, charges etc., within 60 days from the date of this publication, failing which the undersigned shall be constrained to initiate proceedings, under Section 13 (4) and section 14 of the SARFAESI Act, against the mortgaged properties mentioned hereinabove to realize the amount due to **IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited)** . Further you are prohibited under Section 13 (13) of the said Act from transferring the said secured assets either by way of sale/lease or otherwise.

Sd/-
Authorized Officer
IDFC First Bank Limited
(erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited)

Date : 25.10.2023
Place : Bangalore

75% beneficiaries of government's micro-credit scheme for street vendors, PM SVANidhi, from non-general category, according to a SBI research report

GOVT FINANCES

Revenue and spending trends are in line with expectations

Fiscal deficit target of **5.9%** of the GDP will be achieved for the current fiscal, says a govt official

As per the government's glide path, it is looking to lower its fiscal deficit to **4.5% GDP** by **2025-26**

There is no major concern regarding tax receipts, as overall revenue is on track to meet the budget target, says the official.

The official said in April-Sept period, collections under small savings schemes significantly surged

Deposits for senior citizens savings scheme grew over 2.5 times year-on-year, reaching a record high of **₹74,675 crore ($10.1 billion)**

Govt capex crosses ₹5L cr, fiscal deficit on track

Capex at 50% of the budgeted target for fiscal 2023-24, no major concern regarding tax receipts, says official

MONIKA YADAV @ New Delhi

GOVERNMENT has surpassed the ₹5 lakh crore mark for capital expenditure (capex), representing over 50% of the budgeted target for the ongoing financial year 2023-24, a senior official said.

The official expressed confidence that revenue and spending trends are in line with expectations, and the fiscal deficit target of 5.9% of the gross domestic product will be achieved for the current fiscal.

"There is no major concern regarding tax receipts, as overall revenue is on track to meet the budget target. Expenditures are also in line with predictions. The centre aims to maintain its glide path for fiscal consolidation and has no reason to believe that the fiscal deficit target will not be met," the official cited above said.

As per the government's glide path, it is looking to lower its fiscal deficit to 4.5% GDP by 2025-26.

Pre-budget discussions are underway with various ministries, and additional demand is anticipated from key government schemes such as the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, as well as fuel and fertilizer subsidies due to global geopolitical tensions, according to him. He further added that additional demands for MNREGS will be considered within prudent limits.

Regarding recent increase in government bond yields due to rising US Treasury yields and geopolitical tensions, the official stated that it is not currently a big concern. The government is monitoring the situation and will take appropriate measures if the yields exceed tolerance levels, he said.

In addition, the official also informed that in the period of April-September, collections under small savings schemes have significantly surged. Deposits for senior citizens savings scheme grew over 2.5 times year-on-year, reaching a record high of Rs 74,675 crore ($10.1 billion). This marks a remarkable 160% increase compared to the corresponding period last year. The newly introduced Mahila Samman Savings Certificate, unveiled in this year's budget, gathered collections amounting to Rs 13,512 crore during April-September. The interest rate for the Senior Citizens Savings Scheme was raised to 8.2% from 8% in the April-June period and has remained unchanged since then. Moreover, the investment limit for elderly individuals in the scheme was raised to Rs 30 lakh from Rs 15 lakh starting from April this year.

> **There is no major concern regarding tax receipts, as overall revenue is on track to meet the budget target. Expenditures are also in line with predictions. The centre aims to maintain its glide path for fiscal consolidation and has no reason to believe that the fiscal deficit target will not be met** —says a govt official

Meanwhile, the official noted that the interest rate for the Public Provident Fund (PPF) scheme has remained unchanged at 7.1%. "The government has considered the tax benefits associated with the PPF scheme in maintaining the interest rate, as it prioritizes schemes for senior citizens and women such as the Sukanya Samriddhi Account Scheme. The PPF scheme still offers one of the highest returns, but the costs and revenue loss due to tax benefits need to be factored in," said the official.

From the National Small Savings Fund, against which the Centre and some states borrow, for the fiscal year 2023-2024, the government plans to utilize Rs 4.71 lakh crore to finance a portion of its overall fiscal deficit.

Market may remain under pressure in coming sessions

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

AFTER a turbulent Monday, domestic equity market is expected to remain under pressure in the coming days as hostile global cues have taken the central stage.

The fears of the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas becoming a bigger regional crisis than it already is and the 10-year US treasuries hitting 5% for the first time since 2007 may keep the bulls on the back foot in the coming sessions, according to equity market analysts. The two factors are important to the global equity market as they indicate higher crude oil prices and a prolonged period of high-interest rates.

> **Investors are worried about further interest rate hikes and inflation, and with the addition of the Israel-Hamas conflict, the uncertainty has increased further and leading to weak sentiment in global equities**
>
> Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Equity Research (Retail), Kotak Securities

Falling for the fourth starting session, local benchmark indices-BSE Sensex and NSE Nifty – closed with a cut of about 1.3% each on Monday. The BSE tumbled 826 points to end at 64,572 levels, while the Nifty50 closed at 19,282, lower by 261 points. The broader indices witnessed one of their biggest fall on Monday with both midcap and smallcap plummeting in the range of 2.9%-3.8%.

In the four sessions since last Wednesday, Sensex has tanked 1,925 points while broader Nifty50 has plunged by around 530 points. The markets were closed on Tuesday on the occasion of Dussehra.

"Benchmark indices witnessed severe pounding in the last hour trades (on Monday) as simmering geo-political tension in the Middle-East region triggered a wave of selling pressure and prompted investors to offload equity holdings. Investors are already worried about further interest rate hikes and inflation, and with the addition of the Israel-Hamas conflict, the uncertainty has increased further and leading to weak sentiment in global equities," said Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Equity Research (Retail), Kotak Securities.

According to Chouhan, Nifty50 has formed a long bearish candle on daily charts which is indicating further weakness from the current levels. For day traders, 19400 would be the key resistance level, below which the index could slip till 19200-19175. On the other hand, above 19400 we could see a quick technical bounce back till 19450-19500, he said.

Ajit Mishra, SVP - Technical Research at Religare, said that the prevailing negativity is not going to subside anytime soon as weak global cues and recent sell-off in the broader indices may further deteriorate the sentiment. "On the index front, we are now eyeing 19,200 as the next crucial support. Amid all, we reiterate our view to limit trades and prefer hedged positions," said Mishra.

Among the local factors, investors would be keenly watching the September quarter numbers. In the coming days, Reliance Industries, Axis Bank, Tech Mahindra and Vodafone Idea among other companies will be reporting their Q2FY24 numbers.

HC ORDER AGAINST WRIT PETITION FILED BY DELTA

The court order came in response to a writ petition filed by Delta Corp and its subsidiary on a notice issued by Hyderabad GST authorities regarding alleged tax shortfall. The Directorate General of GST Intelligence last month sent a notice to Delta demanding ₹11,139 crore

Bombay HC provides respite to Delta Corp in ₹16,000 cr tax notice

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Chennai

THE Goa Bench of Bombay High Court on Monday gave respite to casino operator Delta Corp and its subsidiaries in the ₹16,000 crore alleged tax shortfall dispute, by directing the Directorate General of GST Intelligence, Hyderabad, not to pass any final orders without prior permission of the court.

According to exchange filings by the company, the court order has put on hold the final orders of the Directorate General of GST Intelligence in an alleged tax short fall of ₹1,11,39,61,03,423 (eleven thousand crore) by Delta Corp. It has also put hold on further orders in ₹3,289,94,41,744 (three thousand crore) and ₹1,765,21,80,638 (thousand crore) alleged tax dispute for Highstreet Cruises and Entertainment Private limited and Delta Pleasure Cruise Company Private Limited, respectively, both subsidiaries of Delta Corp.

The order came in response to the writ petition filed by the company and its subsidiary on the notice issued by the Hyderabad GST authorities regarding alleged tax shortfall.

The Directorate General of GST Intelligence last month sent a notice to the company to pay tax liability of ₹11,139 crore. The amount claimed in the DG notice is based on gross bet value of games played at the casinos, among other things during the period from July 2017 to March 2022, according to the company. Demand of GST on gross bet value has been objected by the industry calling it arbitrary and contrary to law. Various representations have been made to the government regarding this.

Byju's CFO Ajay Goel quits amid delay in filing FY22 financial results

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Bengaluru

SIX months after joining edtech company Byju's, chief financial officer (CFO) Ajay Goel has quit the firm and he will be returning to his previous company Vedanta.

This comes at a time when the company is delaying in filing its FY22 results. Last week the company had said it would file its financial results by the end of that week, it is yet to file it for the financial year 2022.

Byju's on Tuesday also announced new leadership in its finance function with the appointment of Pradip Kanakia as the senior advisor and Nitin Golani, who is currently the President - Finance, will assume additional responsibility as India CFO.

In April this year, Goel was appointed as Byju's CFO. It had said the appointment would help strengthen the company's financial operations, long-term business strategies and path to profitability.

As CFO, Goel was responsible for overseeing financial strategy and management for the company.

Ajay Goel, who is returning to Vedanta said, "I thank the founders and colleagues at Byju's for helping me assemble the FY22 audit in three months. I appreciate the support received during a short but impactful stint at Byju's".

He will transition after completing the formalities of the FY22 audit. Pradip Kanakia has held leadership positions at Price Waterhouse and KPMG. He comes with expertise in finance strategy, transformation, performance management, accounting, auditing, reporting, controls, compliance, and governance, Byju's said.

The new India CFO and President - Finance, Nitin Golani, was previously the Chief Strategy Officer at Aakash Education. He played a crucial role in Byju's $1 billion acquisition of Aakash in 2021 and moved into an operating role at Aakash post-acquisition. Nitin, a chartered accountant, began his career at Grant Thornton Bharat and has held roles at MetLife and Accenture Strategy. Nitin will work closely with the board, founders and senior leadership on strategy development, capital planning, and financial analysis, the edtech firm said.

CEOs consider rewards for office attendance

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Bengaluru

THOUGH start-ups and a few IT services companies have been successful in making their employees return to office at least thrice a week, chief executives in the country are increasingly weighing up the return-to-work dilemma.

Nearly 89% CEOs in India and 87% globally consider linking rewards, raises or promotions with office attendance.

As per KPMG 2023 India CEO Outlook, 54% of CEOs in India as against 64% globally envision the working environment for employees to be an in-office model in three years.

This is despite a conflicting debate about hybrid working that has great support, especially among millennials. The report also said leaders should have a long-term perspective that incorporates employee value proposition and considers the concerns and wants of employees as firms continue to roll out their return-to-office plans in order to ensure that talent is nurtured and maintained.

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has made it mandatory for its employees to work from office for five days a week. Infosys in its recent earnings conference said they want to remain flexible with its employees. "Every quarter, every week, we are seeing more and more employees back into the campus and we believe this will continue on," Salil Parekh, CEO and MD, Infosys, said.

"In general, our view is we want to support this flexible approach. It is something that we believe is appropriate, given how we have set up the work-from-home infrastructure. We will continue with it at this stage," he added. HR experts say a permanent hybrid may have an inherent inefficiency that will hit an organisation.

Govt sees 'hope' in high retail loan growth

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

EVEN as the surge in retail loans, especially housing and vehicle loans, is making the banking regulator uncomfortable, the government seems to be happy as it feels the trend signals strong consumer sentiments.

In its Monthly Economic Review, the finance ministry says that increased demand for housing and vehicle loans reflects the confidence of the households in their future employment and income prospects.

The report pointed out that the magnitude of vehicle loans, an important indicator of growth in private consumption, has been growing at double-digits since April 2022, and housing loans have been seeing 'a steady double-digit growth' since May 2021.

"Households are making a smart investment choice of acquiring physical assets, taking advantage of larger credit availability from banks and after a long period of elevated returns in financial assets," says the report.

It says that the real estate sector has a vast network of forward and backward linkages (such as cement and steel, among others, besides various services), the increase in demand for housing is inducing broad-based growth and job creation.

The banking regulator – Reserve Bank of India – however, has asked banks and NBFs to be cautious with personal loans recording high growth.

Skyroot set to launch satellites early next year

PTI @ New Delhi

SPACE start-up Skyroot Aerospace on Tuesday unveiled its indigenously built Vikram-1 rocket which is expected to deliver satellites to low earth orbit early next year.

Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh also inaugurated 'The MAX-Q Campus', the new headquarters of the start-up at the GMR Aerospace and Industrial Park at Mamidipally in South Hyderabad.

Singh toured the Skyroot headquarters spread across 60,000 sq ft and billed as the country's largest private rocket development facility under one roof. Vikram-1 is a multi-stage launch vehicle with a capacity to place around 300 kg payloads in Low Earth Orbit. It is an all-carbon-fibre-bodied rocket that can place multiple satellites into orbit and features 3D-printed liquid engines.

Business & Beyond

Promising PR Person of the Year Award presented to Nikhil Mukund Wagh, SM (PR) GSL

Nikhil Mukund Wagh, PRO, Goa Shipyard Limited honoured with PRCI "Promising PR Person of the Year" Award during the Chanakya Award Ceremony at Public Relation Council of India's 17th Global Communication Conclave: "Building Trust Digitally" at New Delhi yesterday. Shri Jual Oram, MP and Chairman, of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence and Shri Vinod Zutshi, Former Secretary of Tourism, presented the award in the presence of Shri M.B. Jayaram, PRCI Chief Mentor and Chairman Emeritus, Ms Geetha Shankar , National President, PRCI , and Dr T Vinay Kumar , Secretary , GC , PRCI , Shri Rajesh Sahgal , Conclave Chairman, PRCI and a large number of PR , Corporate Communication and Media Professionals.

Reliance Digital set to open future with OnePlus Open Foldable Smartphone at its stores

Customers now have the opportunity to own the new foldable futuristic smartphone, OnePlus Open, before the world does. Pre-booking for the device starts on 20th October across all Reliance Digital stores. Benefits include free OnePlus Buds Pro 2, exchange offers, accidental protection plan, and no-cost EMIs with up to Rs 5000* Instant Discount on ICICI Bank Cards and One Card along with exchange bonus of up to Rs 8000*. The sale goes live on 27th October. "We are thrilled to be partnering with OnePlus for the launch of theirground-breaking OnePlus Open smartphone," said Brian Bade, CEO of Reliance Digital. "With the launch, we continue to stay true to our promise of bringing the latest in technology to our customers". The OnePlus Open is a revolutionary device that combines cutting-edge technology with sleek design.

Bank of Baroda Cuttack Region organized Hindi Day Award Ceremony

Cuttack: Bank of Baroda, Cuttack Region organized Hindi Day award Ceremony. On this occasion, prizes and letters of appreciation were given for various Raj bhasha Competitions organized between 01.09.2023 to 30.09.2023 at Cuttack Regional Office. Ranjit Kumar, Regional Head, Cuttack Region highlighted the contribution of Rajbhasha in the development of the nation. Various Competitions were organized for all the employees of Cuttack Regional Office and Branches on the occasion of Hindi Month. During this programme, best performing departments and branches were also honoured. Ranjit Kumar, Regional Head, G.P. Behera, Deputy Regional Head along with staffs of Cuttack Regional Office and branches were present in this programme

BUMRAH

THE OIL IN INDIA'S BOWLING ARSENAL

GOMESH S @ Dharamsala

DARYL Mitchell was well past his century at the HPCA Stadium in Dharamsala. By now, Jasprit Bumrah had figures of 1/42 from nine overs. It's been like that. If one went through the scorecards of all India matches in the ongoing World Cup, they'd hardly notice what Bumrah has done save the match against Pakistan where he delivered Hollywood balls.

But scoreboards do no justice to the impact he has had. Neither does that stat that he has taken 11 wickets in five games. But put it all together with the other numbers — second leading wicket-taker in the tournament behind Mitchell Santner (12), best average (16.27) among bowlers who have played more than one game, best economy (3.8) among the top 60 (yes, you read that right) wicket-takers — it will not be hard to see how Bumrah is the oil of the bowling attack.

It is not just the numbers though. What Bumrah does with his skill is more than that. He conjures magic. Remember the off-cutter to castle Mohammad Rizwan? The sharp outswinger that took the outside edge of Mitchell Marsh against Australia? The pitch perfect yorker that hit the base of middle-stump to send Bangladesh's Mahmudullah back? You probably would. But what often goes unnoticed are the yorkers that batters barely survive. Mahmudullah, for example, just before he was dismissed, faced a very similar yorker on middle-and-leg but he managed to bring the bat down in time to dig it out.

Bumrah's ability to keep coming back and hitting those yorkers is second to none. It would not be an understatement to say that not many in world cricket at the moment can bowl yorkers as effectively as Bumrah can. While his incredible skills are well documented — it is what brought him to the international level — what blows ones mind is the consistency with which he is hitting them. And that's before you realise he was out of the game for close to a year. Pffft.

Ask him how he has been feeling since returning to Indian team and he was tongue-in-cheek: "At the end of the day, you guys will anyway decide that I was like this, I was like that, what I am doing. But I don't work like that. I am a little detached person."

To an extent, he has always been like this. His extreme skills has often overshadowed his shrewdness and ability to read the game of cricket. There is one thing, however, that has changed with the rise of Mohammed Siraj. Bumrah used to be the go-to enforcer for Rohit Sharma or Virat Kohli. Not anymore. Bumrah is now the safety deposit. He will do the job upfront, but he will not be the first pacer to be brought back in the middle-overs when the spinners don't work. It was clear in Ahmedabad as well as Pune. Sharma brought on Siraj, Babar got out, and then came Bumrah to double down on the impact. Three-four overs upfront, two-three in the middle (30-40), four again at the death... that seems to be the template unless the need arises for Bumrah to bowl in a place where he is usually not needed. For Sharma, every over, every ball Bumrah bowls needs to be savoured, cherished and made the most of. He is India's golden goose with the ball.

It comes as no surprise that KL Rahul, who has the best seat on the field to watch Bumrah, feels lucky. "Really lucky that we don't have to break our bats with his yorkers. We have faced him a little bit in the IPL as well. Really happy that he is back and he is fit," Rahul, who spent a lot time in rehab with Bumrah at the NCA, told reporters in Pune.

The sentiment is same across the board. One could see the relief in bowling coach Paras Mhambrey's face on the luxury of having Bumrah back in the team. "Ask me about it man," he said with a wide smile. "It has been tough. You have seen him in the last three games that he has played. He gives you that breakthrough that you require in the power plays. He's well adapted to bowl in the middle overs and he's a top gun dead bowler," Mhambrey had said in Pune. None of this is exaggeration. The joy of watching an elite athlete like Bumrah at his best is not restricted to the Indian team. Check the X (formerly known as Twitter) feed of former West Indian fast bowler, Ian Bishop, and you'll understand. "A Jasprit Bumrah yorker is a treat to behold. He is gold," reads his last tweet on Bumrah after the game against Bangladesh.

Back in Dharamsala, Mitchell took guard against Bumrah in the penultimate over. Mitchell is looking to clear his front leg and swing for the mountains. The pacer though delivers five perfect yorkers and concedes only three runs. The numbers next to his name read 10-1-45-1.

Like Bishop posted, gold.

A Dutch challenge for Aussies

Australia came back from two back-to-back losses to win two in a row, they will face the Netherlands with a chance to consolidate their position in the points table, or can the Dutch throw some challenge in Delhi? A look...

WILL HEAD PLAY?

Australia were rocked even before the start of the tournament when Travis Head injured his left hand while batting against South Africa. After missing out on the first four matches of the WC, Head could potentially be part of the playing XI in Delhi. Opener Mitchell Marsh has expressed that he will happily vacate his spot for the left-hander.

MISSED OPPORTUNITY

The Netherlands missed a great opportunity to seal a win against Sri Lanka in their previous fixture as the Islanders chased down the total with five wickets in hand. The Dutch would want to put that behind against the Australians. Their lower-middle order can create some problems for Australia, but they would expect more from the openers.

TOOTHLESS IN POWERPLAY

Since taking three wickets in the first three overs, Australian bowlers have struggled to take wickets early on. South African openers piled up 108 runs, while Sri Lanka and Pakistan also added a century partnership each against Australia. It will be interesting to see how the Australian bowling attack comes up with a solution for that in Delhi.

TODAY'S GAME: Australia vs Netherlands, New Delhi, 2.00 PM | Live on Star Sports Network/Hotstar

South Africa power past Bangladesh by 149 runs

AGENCIES @ Mumbai

DESPITE all-rounder Mahmudullah scoring 111 off as many balls, his third century in the World Cups, South Africa defeated Bangladesh by 149 runs in their World Cup match on Tuesday. Quinton de Kock (174 off 140) and Aiden Markram (60 off 69) laid the foundation as Heinrich Klaasen (90 off 49) powered South Africa to a mammoth 382 for 5. For Bangladesh Hasan Mahmud took two wickets while giving away 67 runs.

In reply, Bangladesh crumbled under the pressure early as they lost six wickets for 81 runs. Mahmudullah held the fort from one end as wickets were falling around him. He added 68 runs with Mustafizur Rahman for the ninth wicket, but it was too little too late as South Africa were bundled out for 233.

Quinton de Kock | AFP

Brief scores: South Africa 382/5 in 50 ovs (De Kock 174, Klaasen 90, Markram 60) bt Bangladesh 233 in 46.4 ovs (Mahmudullah 111; Coetzee 3/62).

DID YOU KNOW?

WORLD CUP TRIVIA

Roelof van der Merwe is the first player to play both for and against South Africa in ODI cricket

EXPRESS READ

Sindhu, Satwik-Chirag enter second round of French Open

RENNES: World No 1 pairing of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty stormed into the men's doubles second round of the French Open Super 750 badminton meet with a 21-13, 21-13 win over World No 34 pair of Lucas Corvee and Ronan Labar here. PV Sindhu also advanced with a 12-21, 21-18, 21-15 win over Indonesia's Gregoria Mariska Tunjung.

The Lords of Wankhede launched in Bengaluru

BENGALURU: Former cricketers Dilip Vengsarkar, VVS Laxman & Venkatesh Prasad launched the new book, The Lords of Wankhede, penned by WV Raman, ex-India cricketer & coach, & journalist R Kaushik on Tuesday. The book details India's journey towards becoming a cricketing powerhouse between their two ODI WC wins – in 1983 and 2011.

Son, Maddison star as Spurs go top of Premier League

LONDON: Tottenham surged to the top of the Premier League as Son Heung-min and James Maddison sealed a 2-0 win against Fulham. Ange Postecoglou's side extended their unbeaten start to nine league games thanks to Son's opener and Maddison's first goal at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium since his close-season move from Leicester.

Dortmund test for Newcastle

Newcastle play Borussia Dortmund while Barcelona face Shaktar challenge. A look at Wednesday's Champions League matches...

NEWCASTLE VS DORTMUND | 12:30 AM

Borussia Dortmund are unbeaten in their domestic league but are yet to score and have suffered one defeat in Europe. So a clash at Newcastle is a vital one for the German club.

BARCA VS SHAKHTAR | 10:15 PM

Barcelona have failed to progress from their group in the past two seasons but two wins have put them top of Group H. However, they will be without many big names when they play Shakhtar.

Other fixtures (12:30 am unless specified): Feyenoord vs Lazio (10:15 pm); Leipzig vs Crvena zvezda; Young Boys vs Man City; PSG vs AC Milan; Celtic vs Atletico; Antwerp vs Porto. Live on Sony Pictures Network

Shooter Sarabjot claims Oly quota

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

THE wait is over for pistol shooters.

Despite possessing some proven talents, the shooters from the pistol category in the country were yet to capture an Olympic quota until Tuesday morning. It's no exaggeration to say the pressure was on them. It was Sarabjot Singh, 22, who ended the wait by claiming a bronze medal in the ongoing Asian Shooting Championships in Changwon, South Korea, where Olympic quotas are also on the line.

In a game where winners and losers are decided by the barest of margins, Singh showed that he can retain his calm during the business end of the men's 10m air pistol final to secure the quota and go on to finish third. China's Zhang Yifan and Liu Jinyao finished first and second, respectively. However, they were just vying for medals as China had already secured a maximum of two Olympic quotas before entering the event.

Hence, the Indian and the fourth-placed finisher walked away with the all-important quotas. India now have won a total of eight quotas.

Despite a promising start, Singh was in a spot of bother after the 17th shot of the final. Sitting at fourth position (last quota spot), a 9.9 effort (considered to be below-par) by Singh had opened the door for fifth-placed Vladimir Svechnikov (Uzbekistan), who had shot 10.5. Singh was just .3 ahead heading into the 18th shot, which would decide who would get eliminated. The stakes could not have been higher than this. Paris Olympics or nothing for now. That's when Singh returned with an effort of 10.1 while Svechnikov hit 9.6. The Indian could breathe a sigh of relief. The quota was confirmed but he was not finished yet. He was looking to do one better, which he did in the end. In the corresponding women's event, none of the Indians could get past the qualifying hurdle. Rhythm Sangwan finished 11th while Esha Singh finished 13th.

SEPTEMBER 25, 1946 – OCTOBER 23, 2023

BISHAN SINGH BEDI

CAREER STATS

67	266	28.71
Tests	Wickets	Avg

Bedi, B Chandrasekhar and off spinners E Prasanna and S Venkataraghavan were famed spin quartet that dominated Indian cricket in the 1970s. When he said goodbye to Test cricket with 266 wickets, he was India's leading wicket-taker.

Bedi captained the national team in 22 Tests. Under his captaincy, India overhauled a target of 403 (a record until 2003) against the West Indies at Port-of-Spain, Trinidad in 1976.

In the domestic circuit, Bedi led Delhi to two consecutive Ranji titles (1978-79 and 1979-80). He also guided Punjab to its first Ranji title in 1990 as head coach.

A genius with magical action & a noble leader

SYED KIRMANI

A LOT of people have asked me to compare Bishu (Bishan Singh Bedi) with the other spinners. But the thing is you cannot compare. They all had different actions and styles, that's what made all of them unique. But I will tell you this about Bedi. He was a master of his craft and all six of his deliveries had tremendous variations. That's what made him a genius, that's what him stand out in a crowd.

Let's start with his actions. It was like a song, so simple yet so beautiful. With all due respect to the modern spinners, the loop Bedi got was magical. It was a very important weapon in his bagful of tricks. He had batters confused in the air itself and it was a privilege to watch him do his thing; ball after ball and over after over. They had no clue whether to go forward or come forward. Considering I had one of the best seats in the house, he made spin bowling into an art form. It's something none of today's spinners have managed to do.

It's no wonder he managed to pick up 266 wickets in Tests. And his first class numbers are insane — 1560 scalps. It is terrific and speaks volumes about the kind of bowler he was.

But what made Bishan Bishan was his other stuff too. From a personal standpoint, he brought me back into the side after I was dropped. He was great judge of merit and he was part of the selection committee that picked the squad for the victorious 1983 World Cup squad. That in itself should tell you about his eye for talent.

When he was captain of the side, he inculcated team spirit into each and everyone of us. He brought about that culture of doing training together at a time when there was no concept of a travelling trainer. We never had any support staff but Bedi efficiently managed all of us. That's who he was as a person. He was a superb human being and a very noble man and would always put his hands up to help an upcoming player. I also have to say this. Keeping to Bedi was a challenge and it played a big role in helping me develop my skills as a keeper. It's what ultimately helped me in winning the 'best wicketkeeper' (1983 World Cup)'.

In terms of legacy, his is out there for the world to see. India has three left-arm spinners playing for the national team (Kuldeep Yadav, Ravindra Jadeja and Axar Patel). That's only because of him. If we didn't have a Bedi to show the way, I'm not sure how many youngsters would have taken up that craft. That's his ultimate contribution to Indian cricket. One needs to have a chequered history to have a legacy and the standards he set means it will be difficult for generations to emulate the great man.

The light will surely be dimmed for his passing is a heavy loss to the fraternity. We have lost an immense man and I send my heartfelt condolences to his bereaved family.

You cannot have another Bedi.

Go well.

(As told to Ashok Venugopal)

(Syed Kirmani was a former India wicketkeeper and chairman of the national selection committee. He was part of the 1983 India team that won the World Cup for the first time).

TRIBUTES...

Sad news indeed. He was the finest left hand bowler that I saw. — Sunil Gavaskar, India batting legend

It is very sad news for me. I have shared such a long friendship with Bedi. He was so much more than a teammate, a true friend whom I could call anytime and speak. It's a huge personal loss. — BS Chandrasekhar, former India cricketer who shared the field with Bedi for many years

'Sashu', he'd say with warmth that only he possessed. To Bishan Paaji, I wasn't just another cricketer; I was like a son. Under his nurturing guidance, I scored my first 100 in England. — Sachin Tendulkar, India batting legend

Saddened to hear of the passing of the legendary Bishan Singh Bedi. Many of my predecessors in the Caribbean spoke of his guile and skill as a bowler and competitor in reverential tones. — Ian Bishop, former West Indies cricketer

Sad to hear about the demise of the great Bishan Singh Bedi, apart from being a great cricketer, he was an affable person and went the extra mile to help young cricketers. — R Ashwin, India premier spinner

He was of course a world class cricketer but an even better human being. I have lost my closest friend on the other side of the border. — Intikhab Alam, former Pakistan captain

Kapil Dev (L) and Kirti Azad attend the funeral in New Delhi on Tuesday | PTI

No one imprinted the art of spin bowling like him: Joshi on Bedi

GOMESH S @ Dharamsala

OCTOBER 22, 2023 will go down as one of the saddest days in the history of Indian cricket. For on this day, the sport lost one its greatest ambassadors. A magician with the ball, leader of the legendary spin quartet, mentor of multiple generations, and a statesman who spoke truth to power. Former India captain and left-arm spinner Bishen Singh Bedi, 77, passed away in New Delhi on Monday.

Suffering from a long illness, Bedi had undergone several surgeries over the past few years and recently, he had a surgery in his knee as well. He is survived by wife Anju and two children Neha and Angad.

Bedi represented India in 67 Tests and took 266 wickets apart from claiming more than 1500 first-class wickets. Yet, numbers do little justice to what Bedi meant to Indian cricket.

With EAS Prasanna, S Venkataraghavan and B Chandrasekhar, Bedi formed the spin quartet that put India on the global stage when cricket was dominated by England, Australia and the West Indies. Purely as an athlete, Bedi was a writer's dream. His slow run-up, followed by the flight and dip he created to deceive batters was one of a kind. If left-arm spin was an art, Bedi was a poet who mesmerised not just his teammates and spectators but also his opponents.

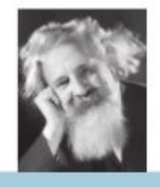
While his on-field achievements are a big legacy in itself, Bedi was so much more than that. He was a statesman, cut from a different cloth. As a captain, or a coach or a manager or even just as a former cricketer, he always held a mirror, be it to the Indian cricket board (BCCI_ or the DDCA (the state which he played for the longest time). His role in getting the players more remuneration was significant as well.

It is hard to keep count of the cricketers he has mentored. There is one cricketer who was close to him. Former India cricketer, Sunil Joshi."I'm just speechless," he told this daily. "There are no words to express what the... my association with sir you cannot match with anything here. There is no match, his commitment towards me and the way he has imprinted certain art of spin bowling because nobody can do that."

It was so much more than just learning the art of spin bowling for several cricketers. A tough taskmaster, Bedi taught players how to treat others with respect. "Sir taught me to always respect each and everyone. It doesn't matter if they have a job to write something, they will write. It's you who can try and get better and those are the things, which he with shared me. I will always remember this," said the former left-arm spinner.

Joshi's favourite memory of Bedi was when he went to the former India captain before the 1998-99 South Africa tour. He was out of form and they worked together and reconstructed various areas of his bowling. "Even at that age, he was bowling," he said. "That is the way he demonstrated what he can do and what a coach should do or a mentor should do. Whatever you say, you need to deliver, then tell the player. See, there are things people say that they may not demonstrate right? When you demonstrate it, the players understand. He did that.

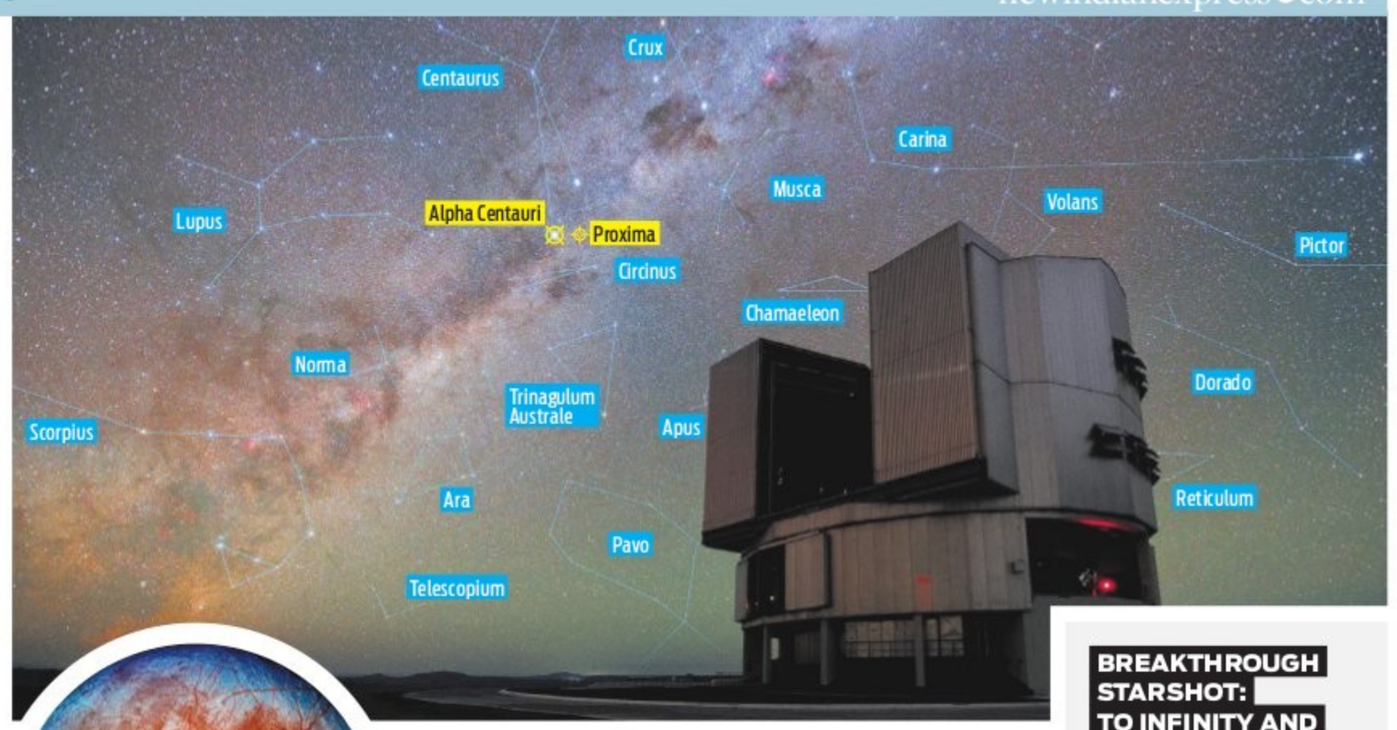
"He has left such a huge legacy. In a left-arm spinner's career and life, whoever has come close to him, whoever has interacted with him, they know the value of Bishen sir's existence in their life. It's very hard to express in words. Only when you feel it, then you get it," said Joshi.



The characteristic of scientific progress is our knowing that we did not know
— **Gaston Bachelard**

For ages, humankind has been eager to find an answer to the question — Is there life beyond Earth? In recent times, the discovery of unique exoplanets in habitable zones, with factors suitable to foster life, may answer just that

HAVE HUMANS FOUND THEIR ALIEN BRETHREN?



Europa, one of the four largest moons orbiting Jupiter, is considered one of the most promising habitable environments in our Solar System. It is believed to have all the ingredients needed to sustain life as we know it, including liquid water, salt deposits, and magnesium. Though Europa's surface is blasted by radiation from Jupiter, which makes it uninhabitable for life on the surface, the influence of radiation on the ice on its surface will help release oxygen, the main component in its atmosphere. If this oxygen somehow finds a way under the ice on Europa's crust, it can become the fuel required for life to develop even if it is just bacteria. It is also possible that Europa may have anaerobic life forms which do not require oxygen. Astronomers have also noticed hydrothermal breakouts on its surface. Life may be found around these hydrothermal zones just like it is observed in the depths of the Earth's oceans. To determine if the icy moon can support life, NASA has scheduled to launch the Europa Clipper mission on October 6, 2024. The mission will study Europa's ice shell, subsurface ocean, composition and geology.

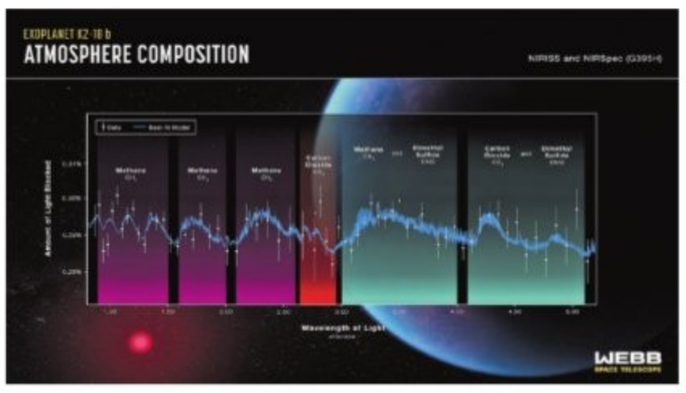
ARSHITHA RAJ

HUMANS have always been curious about finding signs of extraterrestrial life. Over 5,000 planets have been detected outside our Solar System after the first exoplanet was identified about 30 years ago. But the presence of life always seems to evade researchers. Detecting habitable Earth-like exoplanets has been challenging because of their small planet-star size, exotic atmospheres, extreme temperatures, and other conditions.

Traditionally, the search for life was focused primarily on rocky planets. However, currently, scientists are pinning their hopes on Hycean planets (ocean-covered worlds with hydrogen-rich atmospheres), where atmospheric conditions could be more conducive to sustain any biosignatures.

Scientists have identified a plethora of super-earths or mini-neptunes with plausible ocean covered surfaces. However, earlier investigations led them to believe that several factors, importantly the pressure and temperatures under a hydrogen-rich atmosphere there, would be too high to support life. But recent observations made with the JWST NIRISS and NIRSpec instruments found that under certain conditions, these planets could indeed support life.

Located in the habitable zone or 'goldilocks zone' of the cool red dwarf K2-18, in the constellation Leo, approximately 124 light years away from Earth, scientists have come across a candidate of Hycean world, 'K2-18b'. In 2015, the Kepler space telescope was able to discover K2-18b, which has 8.6 times the Earth's mass and 2.6 times its radius. One year here lasts only 33 Earth days, which means it is a lot closer to its red dwarf, than Earth is to its Sun. But, K2-18 is cooler and smaller.



It is an M-dwarf, characterised by its relatively low mass and luminosity, making it faint compared to its larger counterparts, such as the G-type star like our Sun. Due to the lower luminosity of M-dwarfs, their habitable zones are much closer which could potentially allow K2-18b to host life. One of the most important features required for a planet to support life is a stable star. M-dwarfs like K2-18 are a perfect candidate as they are quiet stars with reduced stellar activity, reducing the likelihood of destructive events such as solar flares, which could strip away a planet's atmosphere or harm potential forms of life.

Some famous examples of exoplanets orbiting M-dwarfs are 'Proxima Centauri b' and 'TRAPPIST-1' system, which are also intriguing candidates for further study. K2-18b is just one among a handful of exoplanets which could potentially be hosting life.

In 2019, the Hubble Space Telescope's mirrors were pointing at K2-18b, allowing astronomers to make more interesting discoveries. Further research was conducted using this telescope, and the data published in separate studies hinted that K2-18b could be the only exoplanet with water in its atmosphere and temperatures that could sustain liquid water on a rocky surface. Though the study suggested the presence of hydrogen and helium, gases not hospitable for life as far as we know it, astronomers continued to look for biomarkers such as methyl chloride and dimethyl sulphide, that can be promising indicators of life in atmospheres where oxygen may not be abundant. This year, K2-18b has yet again raised the curiosity of scientists as the new investigation with NASA's James Webb Space Telescope revealed the presence of carbon-bearing molecules including methane (CH_4) and carbon dioxide (CO_2) in its atmosphere. This is a scientific breakthrough as the detection of CH_4 has resolved the long-standing 'missing methane problem' for exoplanets. Also, the abundance of methane and carbon dioxide along with the non-detection of ammonia are consistent with chemical predictions for an ocean under a temperate H2-rich atmosphere.

But the study came with even more interesting findings. The results of atmospheric spectroscopy also revealed the tentative signs of dimethyl sulphide (DMS), which has been predicted to be an observable biomarker in Hycean worlds, motivating considerations of possible biological activity on the K2-18b. DMS is a molecule that is produced only through biological activity on Earth. Most of the DMS on Earth comes from the flatulence of marine life, phytoplanktons, and other microscopic organisms found in the ocean.

The study, however, comes with its caveats as scientists are still unsure about the temperature on the planet, which means that habitability remains uncertain. It is also possible that finding DMS could be a result of calibration errors. Another possibility is that DMS could be produced through some natural process, which does not occur on Earth. Further observations are required to establish the findings more firmly. K2-18b may not be the exact replica of earth, but getting to know it a bit better will be important to understand the potential habitability of smaller 'Earth-sized' planets.

Located approximately 64.5 light years away in the constellation Vulpecula is an exoplanet, 'HD 189733b', known for its exotic atmosphere. It has a cobalt blue colour not because of an ocean cover, but due to a hazy, blow-torched atmosphere containing high clouds laced with silicon particles. What really distinguishes it from Earth is its weather, with winds raging at 4,500 mph and this perpetual wind carries shards of hot glass. The planet is a gas giant that orbits a K-type star and is tidally locked, which means that one side always faces the sun and the other always has night. Since its discovery in 2005, it has been subject to intense atmospheric research, which uncovered details such as the presence of water vapours in the atmosphere song with methane, carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide. Though it might seem like there are building blocks of life here, the hellish weather and blistering temperatures will make any prospect of life impossible. NASA's Spitzer Space Telescope was able to track and measure the planet for 33 consecutive hours, and found that the temperature on its night side is about 630 degrees Celsius, while on the sunlight side it is around 930 degrees Celsius.

HABITABLE EXOPLANETS CATALOG

The cosmos is teeming with potential habitable exoplanets and exomoons. In order to keep track of these exoplanets, the Planetary Habitability Laboratory at the University of Puerto Rico at Arecibo maintains a Habitable Exoplanet Catalog. This is a database of potentially habitable worlds discovered by ground and space telescopes in the last decade. The exoplanet data comes from the NASA Exoplanet Archive, and includes planets up to 2.5 Earth radii or 10 Earth masses orbiting within the optimistic stellar habitable zone to be as inclusive as possible. As of January 5, 2023, the catalog lists a total of 63 potential habitable worlds. The catalog offers details about each planet, including its name, classification, mass, radius, average stellar flux, estimated surface temperature, orbital period, distance from the Earth, and Earth SImilarity Index (ESI). The conservative sample includes those that are most likely to be rocky up to 1.6 Earth radii or 3 Earth masses, while the optimistic sample includes those that are more likely to maintain surface liquid water.

BREAKTHROUGH STARSHOT: TO INFINITY AND BEYOND

An international team of astronomers has found signs that a habitable planet may be lurking in the Alpha Centauri system. Alpha Centauri is a triple-star system consisting of two stars, Alpha Centauri A and B, and a red dwarf, Proxima Centauri, that is known to have at least two exoplanets, one of which appears to be similar to Earth. It is the closest star to our solar system, located at a distance of about 4.37 light years away. The new TOLIMAN space telescope mission will look for habitable planets in the Alpha Centauri system. Using our current technology, a trip to Proxima Centauri would take about 78,000 years. But projects like Breakthrough Starshot would give a great boost to the development of new methods of space propulsion and new technologies for miniaturisation of cameras and other electronic components. Born from the Breakthrough Initiatives, the Breakthrough Starshot is research and engineering project to develop a fleet of sailing interstellar probes and laser propulsion. The concept involves a mothership that transports small spacecraft a few centimetres in size to the outside of Earth's orbit. From here a laser beam coming from the ground will accelerate the 4x4-m sails connected to the microprobes up to 100 km/s2, possibly reaching the planet Proxima Centauri b in about 30 years to fully understand the surface characteristics of the planet. The project was founded in 2016 by Yuri Milner, Stephen Hawking, and Mark Zuckerberg.

BEHIND THE SCIENCE

INSIDE THE ATOM

NIELS BOHR

HRITHIK KIRAN BAGADE

Quantum studies took a massive leap in the middle of the 20th century, with a host of European scientists successfully attempting to unlock the mysteries of the atom. In these endeavours, Danish physicist Niels Henrik David Bohr made foundational contributions to understanding the atomic structure and quantum theory, for which he received the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1922.

Bohr was born in Copenhagen on October 7, 1885, the second of three children of Christian Bohr, a professor of physiology at the University of Copenhagen, and his wife Ellen. In 1903, Bohr enrolled as an undergraduate at the University of Copenhagen, majoring in physics, while also studying astronomy and mathematics. At the university, he came under the guidance of Prof C Christiansen, and earned his Master's degree in Physics in 1909 and Doctorate in 1911. In 1912, he married Margrethe Nørlund. As part of his contributions, Bohr developed the 'Bohr Model' of the atom, in which he proposed that the electron was able to occupy only certain orbits around the atomic nucleus. This means that electrons' energy levels are discrete and that the electrons revolve in stable orbits around the nucleus, but can jump from one energy level to another. This atomic model was the first to use quantum theory, in that the electrons were limited to specific orbits around the nucleus. Bohr used his model to explain the spectral lines of hydrogen. He also conceived the complementarity principle, wherein items could be separately analysed in terms of contradictory properties, like behaving as a wave or a stream of particles. The notion of complementarity dominated Bohr's thinking in both science and philosophy. In 1920, Bohr founded the Institute of Theoretical Physics at the University of Copenhagen, now known as the Niels Bohr Institute. He also predicted the properties of a new zirconium-like element, which was named 'hafnium', after the Latin name for Copenhagen, where it was discovered. Later, the element 'bohrium' was named after him. During World War II, Bohr was part of the British mission to the Manhattan Project, a classified programme to make the first atomic bombs. After the war, he called for international cooperation on nuclear energy. Besides, Bohr was a footballer, philosopher, and promoter of scientific research. He passed away on November 18, 1962, in the city of his birth.

Plants Learn To Detect Toxic Chemicals

WHAT if your house plant could tell you your water isn't safe? Scientists are closer to realising this, having successfully engineered a plant to turn beet red in the presence of a banned, toxic pesticide. To achieve this, researchers from the University of California, Riverside, had to solve an engineering puzzle: how to enable a plant to sense and react to a chemical in the environment, without damaging its ability to function normally in all other respects.

"The biggest piece here is we've created an environmental sensor without modifying the plant's native metabolism," says Ian Wheeldon, associate professor of chemical and environmental engineering at UCR, adding, "Previously, the biosensor component would have messed up the plant's ability to grow toward light or stop using water when stressed. This won't."

The engineering process begins with a protein called abscisic acid, or ABA, that helps plants acclimate to stressful changes in the environment.

During a drought, soil dries and plants produce ABA. Additional proteins, called receptors, help the plant recognise and respond to ABA, which in turn tells the plant to close pores in its leaves and stems to minimise evaporation, and the plant is less likely to wilt.

Last year, the research team demonstrated that ABA receptor proteins can be trained to bind to chemicals other than ABA. Now the team has shown that once the receptors bind to this other chemical, the plant will turn beet red. For this demonstration, the team used azinphos-ethyl, a pesticide found to be toxic to humans. "The people we work with are trying to sense information about chemicals in the environment from a distance," says Sean Cutler, UCR professor of plant cell biology. "If you had a field of these and they turned red, that would be pretty obvious, visually," he adds.

As part of the same experiment, the research team also demonstrated the ability to turn another living organism into a sensor: yeast. The team was able to show a response in yeast to two different chemicals at the same time. However, this is not yet possible in plants.

"It would be great if we could eventually design one plant to sense 100 banned pesticides, a one-stop shop," says Cutler, adding, "The more you can stack, the better, especially for applications involving environmental health or defense. But there are limits to what we can engineer for these new sensing capacities at this time." *(Source: UCR)*

HOW IT WORKS

GLASS, A MATTER OF ITS OWN

PURAN CHOUDHARY

GLASS - a material that has captivated human imagination from the ancient to the modern era.

The transparent nature of glass and its fragility have left scientists still researching its mysteries and details about its anatomy. From mirrors to smartphone screens, to windows to spectacles you are reading this article through — glass does not either fit into liquid or solid states of matter; it rather sits somewhere in between.

We've all heard of the legendary phenomenon of opera singers shattering glass with the sheer pitch of their voices. In 2005, the Discovery Channel show MythBusters answered the question if it was actually possible. Singer and vocal coach Jamie Vendera tried it with 12 wine glasses, before getting lucky with one that broke into pieces. His voice was recorded at 105 decibels, as loud as someone hitting a jackhammer. For the first time, such proof was recorded on video.

However, glass is not new. It has been a familiar part of our lives since ages, with our ancestors making use of its products for over 4,000 years – in arrowheads and beads, to increasingly find its application in electronics, decoration, storage, and even medical research.

While one might be fascinated by this, the answer lies in the intricacies of glass' atomic structure. Physicist William H Zachariasen in 1932, unveiled the anatomy of glass as a complex arrangement of silicon and oxygen atoms intertwined in a three-dimensional shape, joined in long cross-linked chains. Scientists used X-ray diffraction to study glass structure, but it produced confusing patterns unlike any other material. Then a basic structural unit of glass, which was a tetrahedron of one silicon atom surrounded by four oxygen atoms in which the tetrahedrons shared corners, was defined.

Glass is made up of a mixture of minerals, but not limited to soda ash, limestone and quartz sand. They are melted into a liquid at around 1,480 degrees Celsius. In this state, the minerals are freely flowing in the liquid, but in a disorderly way. This liquid cools fast and is atomically disordered in the structure that defines glass. It does not form an organised crystalline structure like other solids.

Over a period of time, this material also undergoes relaxation — in which atoms in glass rearrange themselves at a slow space to stabilise.

It is said that over a billion years, a typical piece of glass will change shape by less than 1 nanometre. Even today, the many fascinating structural, optical, electronic and quantum properties of the glass family continue to fascinate researchers.

While no two pieces of glasses are the same, scientists have gotten better at understanding the structure of glass and manipulating results that do not allow it to break easily. Today, there are different kinds of glass, and even that which is biodegradable.

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Stories Beyond Boundaries
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DAY'S DIARY

Software release

On this day in 2001, Windows XP with upgrades and copies of the software was released with the launches of Windows 95 and Windows ME

WINDOWS XP

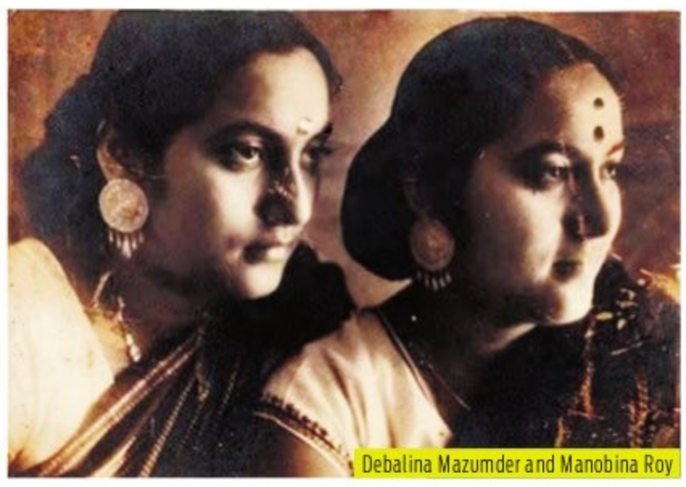
Windows XP, code-named Whistler 2000-2001, is a personal computer operating system produced by Microsoft as part of the Windows NT family of operating systems

SALES AND NUMBERS

The October sales account for six days on store shelves plus preorders was around 4,00,000. Retailers sold only 2,50,000 copies in November

VERSIONS AND OFFERS

Windows XP had two versions — Home and Professional. Professional version offered sophisticated networking and better security



Debalina Mazumder and Manobina Roy

THROUGH THE LENS OF TIME

This exhibition explores the works of two pioneering women photographers of India, Debalina Mazumder and Manobina Roy

DESE GOWDA

AT a time when photography was still an artform on the rise, and almost exclusive to men, twin sisters Debalina Mazumder and Manobina Roy stood out. Born to a middle class family in 1919 in Varanasi, the sisters embraced photography at a time when women had little choice but to remain within their domestic sphere. This week, an exhibition chronicling the twin sisters' works is being held at Bangalore International Centre, Domlur.

Running till Oct 25, Twin Sisters With Cameras, curated by Sabeena Gadihoke, a professor at Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi; Mallika Leuzinger, a Fellow in Colonial and Global History at the German Historical Institute, London and Tapati Guha-Thakurta, a professor and former director of the Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta, is a tribute to not only the sisters' incredible body of work but also the rich legacy of amateur photography in India.

As a curator and filmmaker Gadihoke first came across the twin sisters' works while on a quest to unearth the legacy of women photographers. "I had written a book about Homai Vyarawalla, India's first woman photojournalist, and was intrigued by the possibility of there being other women photographers, perhaps not professionals," she shares. Her exploration led her to Debalina and Manobina whom she met about 24 years ago. "I was intrigued by the possibility of women using their domestic lives and motherhood to pursue their art. Being able to pursue photography and their craft through their lives as women, within the domestic sphere," she adds.

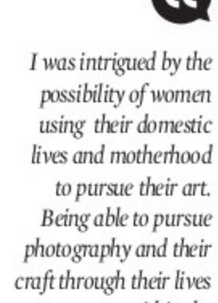
Leuzinger, who was inspired to pursue a PhD on the twin sisters' works by Gadihoke's initial works, underscores the broader narrative encapsulated in the exhibition. "It's not just about the lives of the two sisters, but also the bigger culture around photography," she says, adding. "The sisters' father, a member of the Royal Photographic Society in London, played a pivotal role in nurturing their love for photography. They eventually go and join these portfolio clubs and amateur photography clubs, showing this fascinating history of their lives in photography and also the rich history of amateur clubs and exhibitions in the country."

The sisters, despite their distinct life paths, shared an unbreakable bond over their love for photography. Debalina, settling in New Alipore, embraced domesticity with five children while keeping her passion for photography alive. Her lens often wandered through the picturesque landscapes during family holidays, capturing the serenity and expanse of nature.

Manobina, on the other hand, embraced the bustling life of Bombay alongside her husband, the legendary filmmaker Bimal Roy. Her photographic journey was intertwined with the cinematic world, capturing behind-the-scenes moments and the vibrant urban life of Bombay. The transition from Calcutta to Bombay marked a new chapter in her photographic narrative, blending the traditional with the modern, the familiar with the new.

The six-part exhibition features contributions from The Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta, and Joy Roy, Manobina's son. The diverse array of photographs, spanning from intimate family portraits to the sisters' European sojourns in the late '50s, paints a vivid narrative of evolving lives and artistic pursuits. "This exhibition includes life in the family bungalow that Manobina Roy and her husband lived in, the sisters' travels to Europe in the late '50s, and portraits of their children as they grew older and of themselves, and so on," Leuzinger adds.

(Twin Sisters With Cameras will be held till October 25, 10am-8pm at Bangalore International Centre, Domlur. Entry free)



It's not just about the lives of the two sisters, but also the bigger culture around photography

Mallika Leuzinger, curator

I was intrigued by the possibility of women using their domestic lives and motherhood to pursue their art. Being able to pursue photography and their craft through their lives as women, within the domestic sphere

Sabeena Gadihoke, curator

City-based F1 aspirant Kush Maini, who has joined the Alpine F1 academy programme, on his debut season in F2, having former F1 world champion Mika Hakkinen as a mentor and his hopes for 2024 and beyond

Vision 2025

DESE GOWDA

POINTS on debut at Bahrain, podium finish in Australia, and P6 in Monaco. It's safe to say that **Kush Maini**'s debut season in F2 has been nothing short of spectacular. Driving the #24 car for Campos Racing, the 23-year-old from Bengaluru gained a lot of attention with his consistent performances, pace, and craft in wheel-to-wheel combat.

And among those who were impressed by Maini this year was former two-time F1 world champion Mika Hakkinen, enough to convince the 'The Flying Finn' to throw his considerable support behind the little-known Bengalurean.

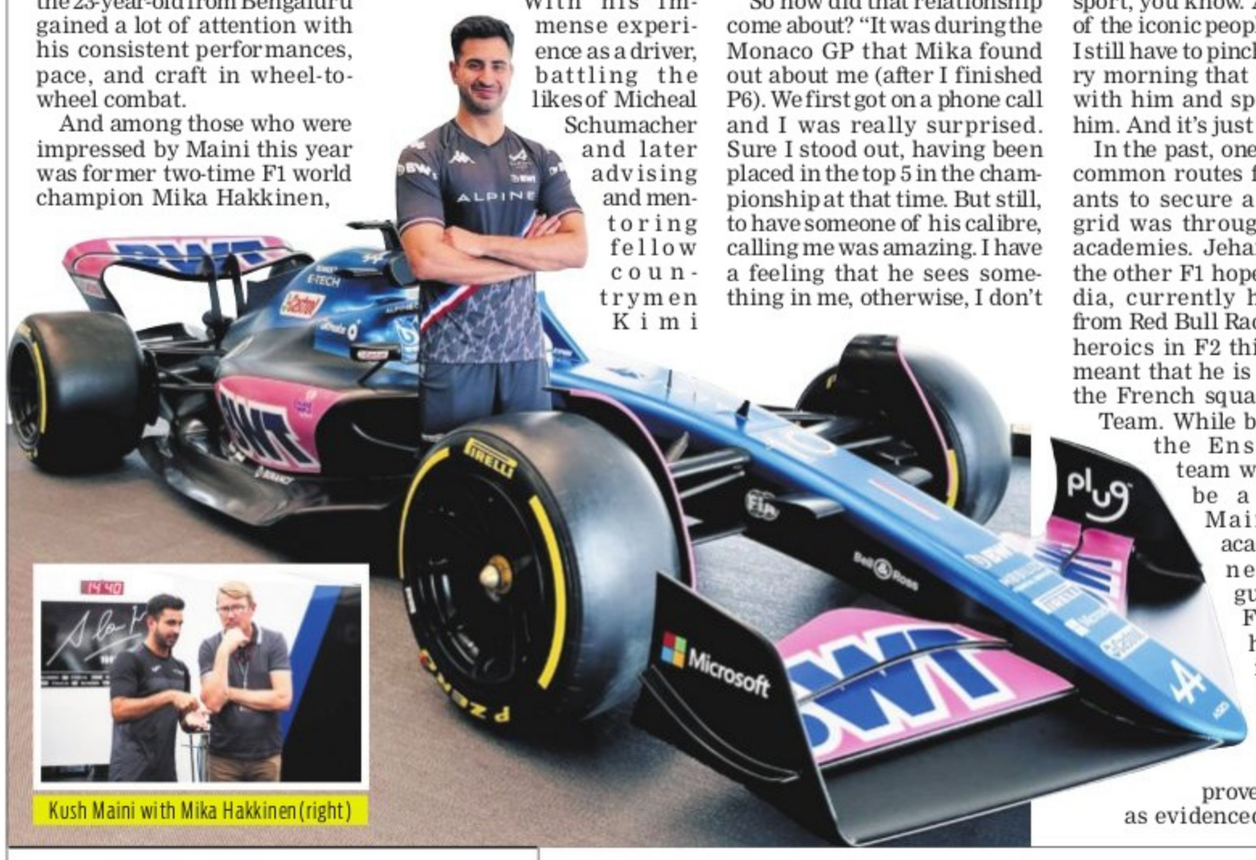
With his immense experience as a driver, battling the likes of Micheal Schumacher and later advising and mentoring fellow countrymen Kimi Raikkonen and Valtteri Bottas respectively, Hakkinen will be helping Maini in his quest to reach F1 going forward.

So how did that relationship come about? "It was during the Monaco GP that Mika found out about me (after I finished P6). We first got on a phone call and I was really surprised. Sure I stood out, having been placed in the top 5 in the championship at that time. But still, to have someone of his calibre, calling me was amazing. I have a feeling that he sees something in me, otherwise, I don't feel he'd be going through all this pain for me," shares Maini, who is currently in the city for a break. "Mika really believes in my ability. But this is a name plus someone who's pushing you and trying to make you the best you can be. Stuff like that doesn't come around every day. It comes from every once in your life. He's one of the greatest in the sport, you know. And he's one of the iconic people. And I just, I still have to pinch myself every morning that I'm working with him and speaking with him. And it's just unreal."

In the past, one of the most common routes for F1 aspirants to secure a seat on the grid was through F1 driver academies. Jehan Daruvala, the other F1 hopeful from India, currently has backing from Red Bull Racing. Maini's heroics in F2 this year have meant that he is now part of the French squad Alpine F1 Team. While being part of the Enstone-based team will certainly be a boost for Maini, driver academies don't necessarily guarantee an F1 seat. But having a former F1 driver like Hakkinen will certainly improve his chances, as evidenced by current F1 driver Oscar Piastri's relationship with Mark Webber.

With eyes set on a promising second year in F2 in 2024, that he hopes could catapult him into an F1 seat in 2025, Maini hopes to learn from his experiences as a rookie. "The goal is clear, it's Formula 1 in 2025. And for that I'm going to need to work super hard and finish in the top three to give me a chance to even be considered for a seat," he says adding, "The start of the 2023 season was great, we got good points. But during the second half of the season, it looked like we fell off a bit...We just didn't get the race quite right. There were a few unfortunate on-track incidents...So for me, it is just a matter of putting things together, which I have no doubt we can do," he says.

Despite adapting fairly quickly to the F2 car, showing promising pace in qualifying trim, Maini struggled with managing tyres - crucial for good race pace. "In Hungary, when I started from pole, I was fighting for my life throughout the race, and could only manage P6. I just couldn't make any progress in that race. It was all about understanding the Pirelli tyres. They're very sensitive - if they're in the right operating window, they can be amazing, but if you miss that window even by a little bit, you can struggle quite a bit. So when it comes to my race pace, it's about fine-tuning," he concludes.



Kush Maini with Mika Hakkinen (right)

KNOW YOUR CITY

Arun Prasad, city-based history researcher, unravels interesting facts about Bengaluru in this weekly quiz series. So it's time for you to find out how familiar you are with the city, beyond its heritage buildings, IT parks and the pub culture.

THE QUIZ WILL BE PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY

Send answers to **bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com** with the subject line **'Know Your City Quiz'**

Correct answers and names of first three respondents with right answers will be featured in *CE*.

1. It was Dr MH Marigowda, the Director of Horticulture, who founded the Bangalore Grape Growers Marketing and Processing Society in 1959 which was soon expanded and rebranded as the Horticultural Producers' Co-operative Marketing and Processing Society popularly known as HOPCOMS in 1965. The society procures fruits and vegetables directly from the farmers across Karnataka and supplies them through their outlets spread across different localities in Bengaluru and other cities. Bordering which well-known gardens in Bengaluru is its head office located?

2. APMC, Bangalore was established in 1955 with the aim of regulating market prices for the agricultural produces for the benefit of the farmers and set up Market yards at different places in and around Bengaluru. APMC yard in Yeshwanthpur is well-known to the Bengalureans which is spread across 85 acres trading more than 100 products. Expand APMC.

3. Mysore Sales International Ltd. (MSIL), established in 1966 with the objective of enabling centralised marketing services to various public and government undertakings, today has grown to one of the best public sector organisations in India. Some of the well-known products marketed by MSIL include Mysore Sandal Soap, Silk sarees, Karnataka State Lottery, wholesale liquor etc. Name the notebook brand marketed by MSIL which was once a household name among the school students in the '80s and '90s in Karnataka.

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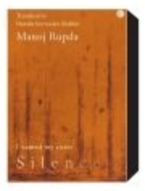
BOOK NOOK



I named my sister Silence

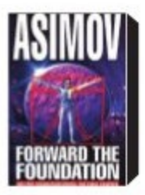
By Manoj Rupda

The book explores the challenges and uncertainties of Adivasis as they navigate the everyday violence on their land and lives. The pages unfold the horrific cruelty of politics and profit, entangled in deceptions and truths that will keep the readers thinking.

Mother-Daughter Murder Night

By Nina Simon

The trio of a grandmother, mother, and daughter work together as amateur sleuths to investigate a murder in their coastal California town in this heartwarming family mystery novel. The bond between Lana and Beth is magnificently complex, delightful, touching, and aggravating.



Forward The Foundation

By Issac Asimov

The chronicles of Hari Seldon's life that were first started in Prelude to Foundation are continued in this book. It illustrates how Seldon transforms his theory of psycho-history from an abstract idea to a usable concept and how he uses it.

A Disappearance in Fiji

By Nilima Rao

The book talks about a mystery that takes place in the Fijian Islands. Akal Singh, a diligent investigator, sets out on an exciting mission to find the truth after an Indian woman disappears without a trace, exposing secrets and danger in this tropical paradise.

WHAT WHEN WHY WHERE

Serenade in the City

Get ready for an electrifying live performance by singer Rajeev Raja, known for the hit *Yaaron Ne Mere Wastey*. Hailing from Shimla, Rajeev's multilingual talent and viral track *Friends Anthem* made him a force to reckon with in the Indian music scene. Don't miss this captivating musical night.

When: Oct 25, 8pm
Where: Sunburn Union, Koramangala
Details: bookmyshow.com

Mic Night

Make your Wednesday nights more enjoyable with this Karaoke Night. Participate in singing, and have a good time with friends while jamming to your favourite tunes.

When: Oct 25, 8pm
Where: Terrace by House of Commons, JP Nagar
Details: bookmyshow.com

Culinary Crafts

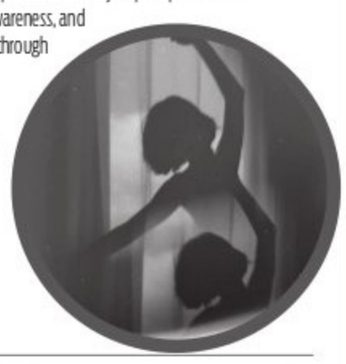
Discover a new world bursting with flavours at Taste of the Nations cooking workshop. Seasoned chefs will guide you while providing cultural insights and hands-on cooking experience with fresh ingredients.

When: Oct 25, 2pm
Where: SmallWorld S.T Bed, Koramangala
Details: bookmyshow.com

Space Jam

Space Jam's lively classes cater to novices and experts, exploring movement and contact improvisation. They inspire spontaneous creativity, boost spatial awareness, and refine partner techniques through structured exercises and freeform expression.

When: Oct 25, 7pm
Where: Shoonya Center for Art and Somatic Practices, Lal Bagh Main Road
Details: bookmyshow.com



Yoga Bliss

End your year with Aerial Yoga Level 1, an 8-week program (Oct 25 - Dec 20). Choose between weekday or weekend sessions, curated for beginners.

When: Oct 25, 9.30pm
Where: SAMA, The Calm Mind Studio, Whitefield
Details: bookmyshow.com

Late-Night Laughter

Experience side-splitting humour at this stand-up comedy night with top-notch comedians. Laugh out loud and leave your worries behind.

When: Oct 25, 8.30pm
Where: Comedy Garage, Whitefield
Details: bookmyshow.com

Lockdown Diaries

The pandemic reshaped our lives, emphasising the importance of human connections. In the play *Lockdown*, four stories from different backgrounds illustrate how our relationships evolved in response to the virus, highlighting their adaptability and resilience.

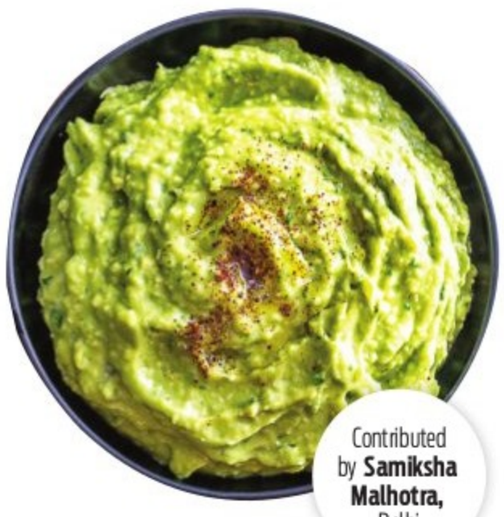
When: Oct 25, 7.30pm
Where: Ranga Shankara, J P Nagar
Details: bookmyshow.com

DANCE TO REMEMBER

Bangalore Vaishnav Samaj celebrated their 99th edition of dandiya nights at Palace Grounds | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

QUICK FIX

SPICY AVOCADO HUMMUS



Contributed by **Samiksha Malhotra,** Delhi

INGREDIENTS

- **Soaked chickpeas:** 4 cups
- **Olive oil:** 1/3 cup
- **Jalapeno (chopped):** 1
- **Salt as per taste**
- **Avocado (halved, pitted and peeled):** 1
- **Lemon juice:** 1/4 cup
- **Tahini:** 3 tbsp
- **Garlic clove:** 1
- **Black pepper**

METHOD

- Empty the chickpeas, lemon juice, olive oil, avocado, tahini, jalapeño and garlic in a bowl of a food processor.
- Grind to make a smooth puree.
- Season the hummus with salt and pepper.
- Serve this delicious dip with chips, crackers and vegetables of your choice.

What's cooking in your kitchen?

We are hungry for recipes with minimum ingredients and maximum flavours. Share your quick-fix with us, along with step-by-step photos, at bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com

FIT BIT

HASTA GARUDA CLOSE UP

(EAGLE ARMS CLOSE UP)

Eagle Arms is a hand gesture of interlocking the arms and has its base in the Hasta yoga practice, Garudasana. It is a quick and safe practice to treat issues related to upper back and neck pain by keeping the joints of the elbows, wrists, and fingers. active.

STEPS

- Bring your hands to the front, parallel to each other at shoulder level, with the palms facing down.
- Cross your arms with the left hand over the right and place the left outer elbow on the right inner elbow.
- Now, bend the arms at the elbows and twist them to bring the arms closer to each other. Your forearms should touch each other with the fingers pointing upwards.
- Raise the forearms perpendicular to the floor. The L-shaped arms should be crossed at the elbows, with the forearms and back of the palms touching each other.
- Finally, wrap the lower palm of the right hand (wrist and fingers) around the left palm to look like a hasta garuda close up.
- Close your eyes, maintaining the elbows at shoulder level, and breathe normally without asserting pressure on the neck or elbows.
- To release, exhale, loosen the palm wrap, then turn and twist the arms, extend them in front, and finally, release the crossed hands and relax.
- Counter the stretch on the other side (left) and after doing it, release the arms and relax.

BENEFITS

- Elongates and strengthens the muscles and joints of upper back, rotator cuff, and shoulders.
- Stretches the rhomboids, thereby improving the upper back's flexibility.
- Releases the tension in the joints and muscles of the hand and shoulders.
- Enhances the functioning of the heart and lung, helping with asthma, colds, allergies, or other respiratory disorders.
- It focuses on the shoulder blades and keeps the shoulder joint stable.
- Improves posture, and alleviates the neck and upper back pain associated with a sedentary lifestyle.
- Relieves symptoms of fibromyalgia, carpal tunnel syndrome, golfer's elbow, finger tingling, or frozen shoulder.
- Removes stiffness from both the neck and shoulder regions.
- Brings relief to people with cervical spondylosis.

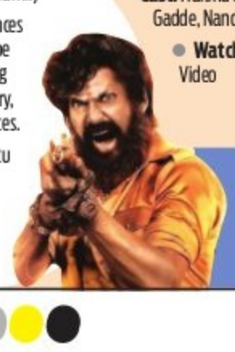
LIMITATIONS

People with injuries to the neck, shoulders, elbows, wrists, or fingers should avoid this.

People undergoing chemotherapy should take it slow under the guidance of a yoga expert, and if any discomfort or intense sensation is felt in the neck, shoulder, heart, or rib cage areas post-surgery, they should be paid attention to.

By N Elumalai, PhD Scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

NOW STREAMING



REGIONAL

HOSA DINACHARI (Kannada)

The love story revolves around three different families as they navigate the difficult times during the pandemic and work towards healing each other.

Cast: Aruna Balaraj, Mandara Battalahalli, Vivek Dev

- **Watch on:** Amazon Prime Video

MARK ANTONY (Tamil)

A gangster's son chances upon a phone that can be used for time-travel, giving him the power to alter history, but not without consequences.

Cast: Vishal, SJ Suryah, Ritu Varma

- **Watch on:** Amazon Prime Video

PREM KUMAR (Telugu)

The story of a groom whose dream of getting married shatters, after which he decides to become a detective specialising in weddings.

Cast: Harsha Chemudu, Ajay Gadde, Nandini Gangadhara

- **Watch on:** Amazon Prime Video

ENNIVAR (Malayalam, series)

Sidhartha Shiva's political thriller follows four students who have to run for their lives and seek refuge in a remote house after a political conflict takes a dangerous turn.

Cast: Sarjano Khalid, Sooraj S. Kurup, Jeo Baby

- **Watch on:** Saina Play

JAANE JAAN (Hindi)

Set in West Bengal, this mystery thriller follows a single mother who covers up a murder with the help of her neighbour. The movie is an adaptation of the book The Devotion of Suspect X by Keigo Higashino.

Cast: Kareena Kapoor, Jaideep Ahlawat, Vijay Varma

- **Watch on:** Netflix

All the streaming apps can be accessed on smartphones and smart TVs with Internet connection.

KOUSALYA SUPRAJA RAMA (Kannada)

The movie follows Ram, who proudly embodies the patriarchal beliefs he was raised with, disregarding women and following his father's footsteps. However, things take a turn as he falls in love with Shivani.

Cast: Brinda Acharya, Sudha Belawadi, Darling Krishna

- **Watch on:** Amazon Prime Video

KHUFIYA (Hindi)

An operative of the Indian spy agency known as R&AW is assigned to track down a mole who is selling defence secrets while grappling with her dual identity as a spy and a lover.

Cast: Tabu, Ali Fazal, Wamiqa Gabbi

- **Watch on:** Netflix

FOREIGN

MIRACLE IN CELL NO. 7 (Turkish)

An official adaptation of the 2013 South Korean comedy-drama film Miracle In Cell No. 7 tells the tale of a small-town shepherd named Memo, who gets framed for murder and sentenced to death. His daughter vows to reunite with him while he finds a group of inmates who believe in his innocence.

Cast: Aras Bulut Iynemli, Nisa Sofiya Aksongur, Deniz Baysal

- **Watch on:** Netflix

GOOSEBUMPS (English, series)

The new adaptation of the old novel series Goosebumps, created by R.L. Stine, follows a group of five high schoolers who must band together to save their town from the evil forces they have unleashed.

Cast: Zack Morris, Isa Briones, Miles McKenna

- **Watch on:** Disney+ hotstar

GOOD NIGHT WORLD (Japanese, anime)

The anime features four members of a dysfunctional family who choose to cope with their real-world struggles by playing a virtual reality game online without being aware that they are playing with each other.

Cast: Daisuke Hirose, Nobunaga Shimazaki, Akio Ôtsuka

- **Watch on:** Netflix

KING THE LAND (Korean, series)

This K-drama follows the story of Goo Won, the heir of The King Group, a luxury hotel conglomerate. He is thrown into an inheritance war where he clashes with a hotelier working at the King Hotel.

Cast: Lee Jun-Ho, Im Yoon-ah, Go Won-Hee

- **Watch on:** Netflix

SUBSCRIPTION	
Netflix:	₹199/month
Prime Video:	₹299/month
aha:	₹699/year
Disney+Hotstar:	₹899/year
iQiyi:	₹159/month
Viki Rakuten:	₹299/month
ZEE5:	₹699/year
SonyLIV:	₹299/month

STORIES beyond boundaries

Author Anita Nair talks about her latest release for children, the inspiration behind it, and the themes it explores

SREELAKSHMI S NAIR

IN the realm of literature, where words are beats and sentences are compositions, Anita Nair stands tall as a master storyteller, weaving her magical notes across the minds and hearts of her readers. Known for works spanning from literary fiction, crime fiction, children's fiction, poetry, and essays to travelogues, screenplays, translations, and many more, she has carved a name for herself in a sea of authors. "I've always wanted to be a writer, and that was the one thing in my life about which I felt convinced. But when I was younger, I wasn't sure what I wanted to write about; as I got older, this progressively became clearer. By that point, I had decided that I wanted to write fiction, and this paved the way for me to step into the shoes of a storyteller," she says in a chat with *CE*.

Her recent children's book *Bipathu and A Very Big Dream* takes the readers down memory lane, where nostalgia peeks at the set of emotions being felt. A story about children from village areas, specially curated for them to read, this book published by Penguin Random House is a treat to the yearnings of one's dreams and wishes.

Excerpts:

How was the story of *Bipathu and A Very Big Dream* born?
We never set out to write a children's book, and in this case as well, it was pretty unexpected. So while I was back in my ancestral village in Kerala, a team from Maharashtra that runs a magazine for encouraging rural children to read, reached out to me to write a little story for them. It was then that the images of children I met there drew up on me, which led to the birth of Bipathu's character. The story just bloomed around my experiences with characters from that village, and Kaikkurissi being a familiar space just made it easier. Later on, when I was rummaging through something, I stumbled upon this Bipathu chapter that I had written and decided to do a full-fledged book on her.

Kaikkurissi, the place that is predominant in a few of your works, makes a re-entry in this book. Was it planned?
When I was working on my audio story called *The Little Duck Girl*, I was wondering where to locate the story. But since I had worked on Bipathu's character earlier, I thought of revisiting Kaikkurissi, as this place always gives me space when I am short on exploring my imagination and time. It is my go-to place, especially when my deadlines are near. Moreover, Kaikkurissi and the story seemed to come together, and that was how it made a reentry into *Bipathu and a Very Big Dream*.

I heard that the characters Saad and Duggu in this book have a personal encounter tagged to it...
A friend of mine has a son who has cerebral palsy, I met this child once and got to spend some time with him. He has a little brother, and we ended up going to my library and playing on my computer all while trying to make a conversation. So this encounter always stayed fresh in my mind, and while I was working on Bipathu, everything just fell into place. The fact that I thought about how courageous and valiant this child was made me want to draw him as a character in my book. Also, the fact that there are only a handful of books that talk about neurodiversity in children just gave me one more reason to write about Saad. And Duggu is a mountain dog that I made friends with during one of my trips. The way it cared for me just made me realise how much these animals love us.

What inspired you to introduce the blind character of Madama into the story?
I have a little cottage in my village, and next to it is a little road that leads to a Madrasa. So I started getting interested in the children who passed by me every day, and they too were equally interested in me, as I was not the kind of person whom they generally saw around that place. Randomly one day, a little boy started calling me 'madama', meaning a foreigner, and following this, that term was taken up by others. And about her going blind, I can say that a little bit of personal touch has been added to it. I have a very serious vision issue, and when I wrote this book, the condition was really bad. I had just gone in for my eye surgery then. The uncertainty of how things would go just made me locate myself there and talk about blindness, especially since I still deal with the fact that I am partially sighted.

You often explore themes like identity, feminism, and societal norms. Have these themes been embedded into this book as well?
In a way, yes. For example, in this novel, I have introduced football as a game that Bipathu enjoys playing a lot. So looking back at the village, this characteristic of Bipathu shatters the societal norm of girls just sticking to their indoor activities. And also, back in my village, I could see two economic extremes within the Muslim community, and that is what made me introduce characters belonging to both of these strata into the story. So, this book was a revisit to my childhood, or to my days as a child, and the stories and experiences I had growing up.

What differentiates writing for children from crafting adult fiction?
Firstly, no matter whom I write for, I always ensure that I don't talk down to my readers or patronise them or so. While writing for children, there would be a complete switch of personalities, as it requires me to step down to being a child and recall my likes and dislikes at that age. I often end up writing from the mind of a child and become very personal in that sense, whereas while writing for adults, my characters are often created from imagination just like other writers, even though I tend to pool in personal experiences for those characters.

Are you currently working on any new stories?
Yes, I have a novel, a part of the Gowda series, that will be coming out in December. I am now putting the book to bed, as they say, which is basically the hygiene check, editing, and all of that.

NUGGETS

Salman Rushdie to participate virtually in MumbaiLitFest

The fourteenth edition of Tata Literature Live! The Mumbai LitFest, returns this year with a well-known line-up of international and national speakers. Due to an overwhelming response, the festival will be held in a dual format with online sessions, on October 25 and 26, and on-ground sessions between October 27 and 29. Among some of the notable international speakers joining the online sessions will be renowned British-American novelist **Salman Rushdie**, Ukrainian author Andrey Kurkov, Turkish-British novelist Elif Shafak and many more. With over 80 sessions, the speakers will be taking part in a host of conversations, workshops, panel discussions, and straight talks. For more details, visit https://tatalitlive.in/

Winner of Writing For Peace Award 2023 announced

Veteran journalist, author and human rights activist Sanjoy Hazarika will receive this year's Rotary Writing for Peace Award instituted by The Peace Avenue of Rotary District 3141 Mumbai, for his acclaimed writing on human rights, conflict mitigation and development-related issues in the North-East Region. The award will be presented to Hazarika at Tata Literature Live! The Mumbai Litfest on Sunday, October 29, in Mumbai, which will be followed by a conversation with Kalpana Sharma.

Ukiyo-e, which translates to 'pictures of the floating world', is a Japanese art form that captures the essence of the floating world through woodblock prints

Haiku Harmony

POOJA DAS

IN a world over-saturated with words, condensing one's thoughts into three lines feels like a breath of fresh air. This is how Bina Sarkar Ellias, a poet and publisher describes the magic of composing haikus, a traditional form of Japanese poetry, known for its brevity and deep connection with nature. Ellias will be visiting the city to present her book, *Ukiyo-e-Days...Haiku Moments*, on October 26 at the Bangalore International Centre to engage with the younger generation. "The times I have engaged with students, there has been a vibrant curiosity. That is really promising. I hope I can continue that because they are our future. We have left such a battered world for them and I hope they repair and heal this world for their own future."

Ukiyo-e is a beautiful art form. The woodblock prints process is very difficult and how they worked on it was fascinating. They started as monochromatic prints and then they moved into colour
Bina Sarkar Ellias, poet

Ellias' love for haikus and Japanese art has led to the creation of her recent book, *Ukiyo-e-Days...Haiku Moments*, wherein she pays homage to ukiyo-e, a genre of Japanese art that flourished from the 17th through 19th centuries. While this is Ellias' seventh poetry book, this is her first haiku book. Talking about her fascination with Japanese culture, Ellias says, "I lived in Japan for five years. I was quite young then and I absorbed a lot of Japanese culture, and have always been interested in the arts and literature, and I was naturally drawn to their cultural aspects. While I have written hundreds of haikus that are not yet published, this book is special because it responds to ukiyo-e which is a traditional Japanese art form."

With a collection of 68 ukiyo-e by 28 artists, selected and curated by Ellias, she charts the journey of the artform from the 17th century to the contemporary times along with a set of 62 haikus as a response to each ukiyo-e, weaving themes of transience, the changing seasons and a constant ebb and flow of life. "Ukiyo-e is a beautiful art form. The woodblock prints process is very difficult and how they worked on it was fascinating. They started as monochromatic prints and then they moved into colour," explains Ellias.

With the choice of creating a dialogue between the ukiyo-e and the haiku as a response, Ellias creates a unique intersection with her own times and expands the value of the artworks.

Bina Sarkar Ellias

HRIDAY RANJAN
Urban Bourbon
(Writer, comedian)

THE TRAGIC LIFE OF RAKSHASAS

AS Navratri comes to an end, curtains are drawn on nine days of fun, family, and food. But unlike most people, I use these days to spare a thought for the rakshasas. Why rakshasas? Over the years, I have grown to love these characters – the hustlers of heaven. Those who wanted to bring some swagger in swargaloka!

In case you're unfamiliar with Indian mythology – there are said to be three worlds. Swargalok (heavenly plane), Dharti Lok (earthly plane), and Patal Lok (netherworld). Apart from humans, there are devas (Gods) and Asuras (demons) who are constantly at loggerheads with each other. Devas have the support of Gods like Vishnu and Shiva, whereas the asuras have only the mentorship of Sage Shukracharya. If the India-Pakistan record in World Cups is 8:0, the scorecard of Devas - Asuras is probably 2,75,456:0 – since the asuras have never won any battle with the devas!

But the life of a rakshasa is not an easy one. You have to participate in prayer and penance, usually to Lord Shiva – who is known to answer prayers easily. He's called 'Bhola' Shankar – the innocent God. The rakshasas usually ask for immortality, which is usually met with a 'Sorry! We don't do that here' response. So the rakshasas go for the next best option – some sort of loophole that will guarantee them eternal life. But as we all know, the Gods usually get the better of them by outwitting them at their own plans.

Once the rakshasas get their boon, the first thing they do is rush to Swargaloka to challenge Indra for his seat. Indra then escalates the issue to the higher powers, and the rest as they say - is mythology! These rakshasas wreak havoc with their newfound powers, until they are finally killed by the gods. While that is usually the story of every rakshasa, there are some rakshasas who put in more effort than the others. Some rakshasas are straight up stupid – like Sishupala in the Mahabharata who was allowed 100 sins in his life. But he used them up quickly by insulting Krishna himself and had to get his head cut off by the Sudarshan Chakra.

At the bottom of the rung are rakshasas like Bakasura – who wasn't your average goat-eating, big-eyes-making, HOOHOO-HAAHAA laughing rakshasa. Bakasura ate one person in the village every day – the earliest case of a high-protein Keto diet! He met his match in Bheema, who killed him. Then there is Bhasmasura who prayed to Shiva for a very specific boon. 'Anybody I place my right hand on, should burn to ashes'. Shiva offered the boon, and Bhasmasura immediately went after Shiva himself. When things reached a head, Vishnu took on the form of a beautiful woman, and Bhasmasura was smitten. He pursued the lady, only to be told that she'd only marry the person who could dance like her. Taking on the earliest TikTok Dance Challenge in history, Bhasmasura danced along – till the beautiful woman placed her hand on her own head. Blinded by lust, Bhasmasura follows suit, and gets burnt to ashes!

Remnants of rakshasas can still be found in Bollywood villains. Without rakshasas, gods have no real work to do! They bring out the godliness of the gods. If stories of gods teach us values, tales of rakshasas teach us important lessons about greed, lust, and anger. But there's a silver lining – once killed, most rakshasas are revealed to be liberated from an ancient curse. It's probably a way of letting us know that you might be an absolute degenerate – but there's hope for redemption – even for the worst of us.

(The writers' views are their own)

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS CLASSIFIEDS

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CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **NAGARAJ HEGDE** (old name), S/o Shreepad Hegde, residing at No. 2D, 2nd Floor, Aishwarya Castle, No. 41/11, Yediyur Lake, North Main Road, Yadiyur, Bangalore- 560082, Karnataka, India, that I have changed my name from **NAGARAJ HEGDE** (Old Name) to **NAGARAJ SHREEPAD HEGDE** (New Name), henceforth I shall be known and called **NAGARAJ SHREEPAD HEGDE** (New Name) only for all purpose, vide Affidavit dated: 20.10.2023, before Notary MOHAMMED HUSSAIN. K, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **MOHAMED ALTAF** R/o No.26, 11th Cross, 2nd Main Road, B.K.Nagar Yeshwanthapura, Bangalore - 560022, declares that I have changed my name as **MOHAMMED ALTAF** vide affidavit dated 23.10.2023 sworn before notary T.V. Bhadravijaya, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **VADIRAJ S KASHYAP**, Residing at No. 001, B Block, V2 Poorvi Enclave, Hanumahills Layout, Arehalli, Near Chaitanya Techno School, Banashankari 3rd Stage, Bengaluru - 560 061, Karnataka, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **VADIRAJ S** to **VADIRAJ S KASHYAP** vide affidavit dated 21.10.2023 sworn to before Hegde Ganapati Venkatraman, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

AFFIDAVIT
I, **SINDHU SHREE P**, aged about 21 years, D/o. Prakash S K, residing at No.918, 18th A Main, 5th Block, Dhobhi Ghat, Rajajinagar, Bangalore- 560010, I declare that the my father names **PRAKASH S K** and **PRAKASH** are one and the same and belongs to my father only. vide affidavit dated 21/10/2023 sworn before advocate and notary M.K. Devaki, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **DEEPA V KASHYAP**, Residing at No. 001, B Block, V2 Poorvi Enclave, Hanumahills Layout, Arehalli, Near Chaitanya Techno School, Banashankari 3rd Stage, Bengaluru - 560 061, Karnataka, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **DEEPA DESAI** to **DEEPA V KASHYAP** vide affidavit dated 21.10.2023 sworn to before Hegde Ganapati Venkatraman, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Mr.IMRAN KHAN S/o Mr.Imtiyaz Khan** Residing at **No.173, Bundemutt Street, Beedi Workers Colony, Kengeri, Bangalore-560060.** Have Changed my daughter Name **MISHKAT FIRDOSE** to **MISHKATH FIRDOSE** vide affidavit Dated: 20.10.2023 before Notary RAVI, Bangalore

'I wasn't entering the industry solely because of my celebrity background'

...says Amrutha Prem, who shares her thoughts on making her debut with *Tagaru Palya*, what led her to choose this project, her shooting experience, and her plans for the future.

CE FEATURES

Amrutha, daughter of noted actor Prem, had never really planned on following in her father's footsteps. Although she had an inherent fondness for cinema, her journey in the industry wasn't premeditated. "However, my opportunity with *Tagaru Palya* nudged my career plans into motion. My father, an actor himself, was aware of my interest in cinema, but he never pressured me. He simply encouraged me to think it through and assured me of his support as long as I was fully dedicated to my craft. After some contemplation, I decided to take the plunge," shares Amrutha, who is eagerly awaiting her big-screen debut set to release on October 27.

"I wanted to be sure I wasn't entering the industry solely because of my celebrity background. It was important to me to have a genuine passion for the art, an understanding of the intricacies of cinema, its triumphs and setbacks, and the ability to handle them. I took my time to ponder all of this before making my decision," adds the engineering-turned-actor.

For a newcomer, what was the first thing that attracted her to T*agaru Palya*? "It's a rooted rural narrative, showcasing a tradition that is still in practice in those regions, making it a unique story that I hadn't come across in recent times. Additionally, Umesh Krupa's film promises to be an all-encompassing entertainer with a storyline that can connect with various audiences. This universal appeal was what caught my attention," says Amrutha, who chose to be part of a content-driven project, which stars Nagabhushan, Tara, Rangayana Raghu, and Biradar.

Amrutha, who thoroughly enjoyed her time on set, reminisces about missing out on visiting shooting spots along with her father. "While my father had been an actor, I had never been to his film sets. Therefore, everything about my first film set was filled with excitement. Even during challenging moments, I found myself enjoying the filming process," says Amrutha, who talks about her cherished moments on the sets. "I was initially a bit shy , but the fellow artists made me feel at ease. Fortunately, the shooting location in Barachukki had network issues, which helped me bond with both known and new actors and gain a deeper understanding of the nuances of acting and the immense effort that goes into making a film. What began as Dhananjay's Daali Pictures project eventually became everyone's film throughout the journey." says the actor.

Coming from a family of actors, Amrutha wishes to inherit her father's dedication and passion for his work. When asked about the nuances she has learned about acting, Amrutha says, "My father's words continue to resonate with me. Being a celebrity's daughter, I have been warmly welcomed, and I never let it go to my head. Personally, I prefer to live in the reality, rather than a dream world. This approach keeps me grounded and focused on self-improvement. In today's industry, we're not in a race against each other because each person has their own unique strengths to showcase. I believe the real competition lies within ourselves, striving to present our best as actors rather than fixating on external competitors. Even though my father is an experienced actor, he has always believed there is more to learn. It's something I experienced firsthand in my debut film, and the team offered the best support."

Amrutha expresses her happiness about the teaser being launched by Challenging star Darshan, whom she has admired since childhood. She is also thrilled to have worked under Dhananjay's banner. "I've watched two of their previous films and have become a fan of their work. They have a welcoming attitude towards newcomers and provide encouragement," she says.

Amrutha

GHOST MAKERS UNVEIL PLANS FOR A DALAVAYI SPINOFF

A prequel in development is centred around Shivarajkumar's character and is set to commence production after *Birbal 2*

Shaivarajkumar

A SHARADHAA

Shivarajkumar's latest release, *Ghost*, directed by Srini, which hit the theatres during the festive season of Dasara has been warmly embraced by Kannada cinema enthusiasts. Notably, it has set the cash registers ringing, especially on Vijayadashmi across Karnataka.

One of the highlights of the film is undoubtedly Shivanna's portrayal of Dalavayi, and the success of the character has prompted the Century star and director Srini to expand the character's narrative. Srini has also hinted on social media that the answers to a lot of questions, including the whereabouts of the stolen gold, Dalavayi's survival, and more will be answered in *Ghost 2.0*.

Thrilled with the enthusiastic response from the audience, Srini revealed that he had contemplated a *Dalavayi* spinoff even while *Ghost* was in production. However, he never anticipated it would take shape before *Ghost 2.0*. "Shivanna's portrayal of Dalavayi, a character that perished 15 years ago, has sparked a fervour of curiosity about this enigmatic figure. This curiosity has led us to the concept of a prequel, and it's one of the reasons Shivanna has chosen to explore the Dalavayi spinoff before proceeding with *Ghost 2.0*. Currently, I am busy with theatre promotions for *Ghost* and am excited to see packed shows. Following this, I'll commence shooting for *Birbal 2*. In the meantime, I've already begun crafting the narrative for Dalavayi with plans to start production in 2024," says Srini, adding that this fictional character has no connection to the underworld don, Dalavayi Muddanna.

Ghost, currently running in theatres, is produced by Sandesh Productions and stars Jayaram, Prashanth Narayanan, Anupam Kher, and Archana Jois in pivotal roles. The film's musical score is composed by Arjun Janya, and Mahendra Simha executes the cinematography.

Swathi Mutthina Male Haniye gets a release date

The film, directed by Raj B Shetty, is the maiden production venture of actor Ramya

CE FEATURES

Writer-filmmaker Raj B Shetty's upcoming venture, *Swathi Mutthina Male Haniye*, the maiden production of actor Ramya, is all set to hit the screens on November 24. Backed by the actor's Applebox Studios, the film will be distributed through KRG Studios.

Interestingly, *Swathi Mutthina Male Haniye* was announced on the occasion of Vijayadashami last year and the team has chosen to reveal the release date on the same occasion this year. Billed as a romantic drama, which Ramya said will make one fall in love with love, *Swathi Mutthina Male Haniye* has been shot in picturesque locations across Ooty, Mysuru and Kudremukha.

This romantic drama will be Raj's third directorial outing after *Ondu Moteyya Kathe*, and *Garuda Gaman Vrishabha Vahana*. Apart from Raj, the film features Siri Ravikumar in the lead, along with an ensemble cast that includes Rekha Kudligi, Balaji Manohar, Surya Vasishta, JP Tuminadu, Sneha Sharma and Gopalkrishna Deshpande.

The film has Praveen Shriyan as the cinematographer, while Midhun Mukundan has scored music for the film.

A still from the film

A still from the film

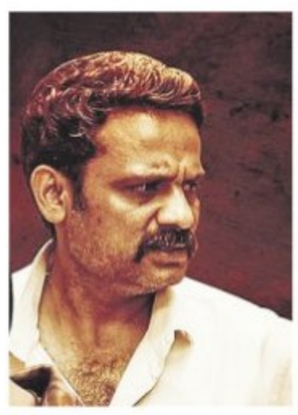
Supplier Shankara is a tribute to the world of hospitality

CE FEATURES

Director Ranjith Singh Rajput's debut film, *Supplier Shankara*, featuring Nischith Korodi is currently in post-production and is gearing up for a release soon. The makers, who recently unveiled the teaser, expressed their excitement and noted that the film is an ode to those in the hospitality industry. The director extends his gratitude to producers M Chandra Shekar and M Nagendra Singh, who played a pivotal role in bringing this project to life. "*Supplier Shankara* is a tribute to the world of hospitality and we promise to offer an engaging cinematic experience," says the director.

Ranjith emphasises that *Supplier Shankara* combines elements of comedy, sentiment, love, and thrills. The team has crafted a captivating narrative that promises a rich blend of entertainment, emotions, and music.

Produced under the Trinethra Films banner, *Supplier Shankara* features Deepika Adarsh in the role of a teacher. The music is composed by director Bharath, and cinematography is handled by Satish Kumar.



KEREBETE MARKS THE RETURN OF GOWRI SHANKAR AS LEAD HERO

CE FEATURES

Kerebete marks the return of actor Gowri Shankar after a five-year hiatus, and as a full-fledged hero with director Raj Guru at the helm. What adds a unique twist to this film is its picturesque setting against the backdrop of Malnad, known for its traditional fishing practices, especially at large ponds. The movie, as revealed by the creators through the title poster, reveals that the storyline is deeply rooted in a rural village with a focus on age-old fishing methods.

Shot entirely in Shivamogga, the film is set to hit screens early next year. The project has actor Gowri Shankar doubling up as producer in association with Jai Shankar Patel. *Kerebete* has music composed by Gagan Badariya.

Gowri Shankar